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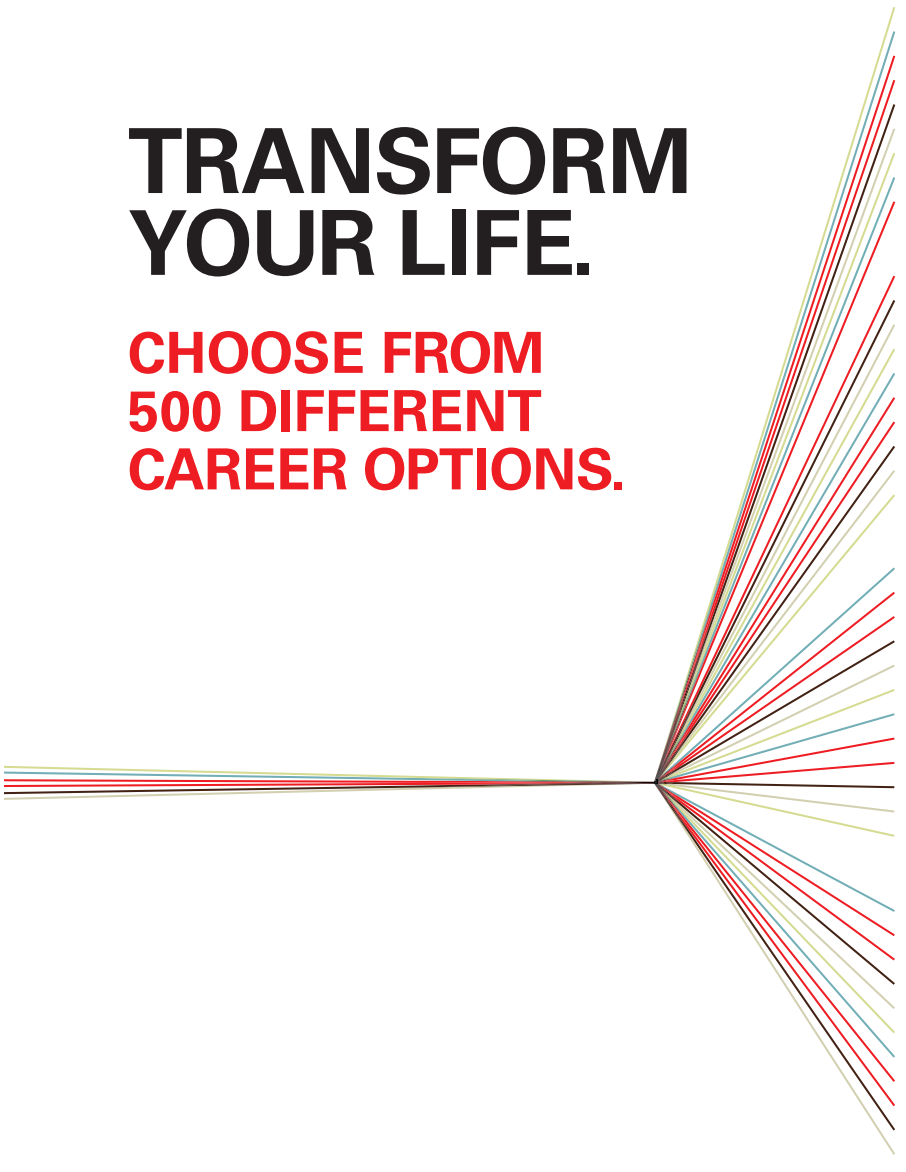

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TROUBLE AHEAD FOR TORCH BEARERS? PG 8

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Celebrity buzz

Beckham line pinched
pg 35

Say it ain't snow

WEATHER Toronto received its second trace of snow early yesterday morning, after breaking a 162-year-old record earlier this month.

The city saw its first trace of snow this season on Dec. 1, making this year the first time since 1847 Toronto has made it to December snow-free. The second trace of flakes came between 5 and 7 a.m. Saturday morning, when light snow showers came through the GTA.

The snowfall was so light, however, and the ground warm enough, the snow did not accumulate, said AccuWeather's senior meteorologist Brett Anderson.

But Torontonians eager for snowfall don't have to wait much longer, he assured. "Tuesday night into Wednesday, I think we will see our first truly measurable snow," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Anniversary **20 years of remembrance**

JOHN KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

Hundreds of people held a candlelight vigil last night in Toronto to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. Story, page 9

'Who goes without?'

THS staff speak out

For the first time, current Toronto Humane Society employees have publicly detailed what they say are major problems at the organization, including widespread animal neglect, shortages of food and supplies, and a culture of fear created by former president Tim Trow and senior managers.

President Bob Hambley has called allegations against the THS baseless, attributing them to a "dispute" with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals "that goes back decades."

THS shelter workers Megan Davidson and Sara Russell, in an interview with the Toronto Star, rejected those assertions.

"People don't know what to believe about all this," said Davidson. "They keep hearing it's politics. And there is politics. There is, of course, a big feud between the THS and the OSPCA. But there's so much more."

Russell has worked at the THS for three years, Davidson for two. They said they were risking their jobs to speak out because they seek change at an institution they cherish. Russell, a steward in the Laborers' International Union of North America local that represents THS workers, said she was speaking on her own behalf and not for the union.

Russell and Davidson said many problems at the THS result from chronic shortages of staff and resources. Russell said she once returned to work after three days off and found 13 cats "caked in feces," their food and water bowls empty.

Davidson said cats were regularly denied "the most simple, basic care you'd give to your own pet" because "there was nobody there to do it." Bowls that had not been disinfected were used "because there wasn't enough time for us to put them through sanitizer."

Davidson said she, as the only employee on the night shift other than a supervisor, had to make agonizing choices for lack of time.

"I had to choose who would get fed tonight, the baby raccoons or the kittens. So I would think, 'He's smaller, so he's more apt to die.' Stuff that you should never have to think about at a place that calls itself humane: 'Who goes without tonight?'"

Both Davidson and Russell said they have considered resigning, but have stayed out of devotion to THS animals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Legalese

- THS spokesman Ian McConachie emailed a statement from Frank Addario, the lawyer representing THS board members except for Trow.

"Although it's difficult and frustrating for THS employees and the board, we are not going to engage in a public discussion about evidence that will be presented in court," Addario said.

Metro launches Canada's first fully bilingual news app for iPhone

TECH Metro Canada is celebrating the launch of Canada's first fully bilingual news application for the iPhone and iPod touch. The application is unique because it's the only one in the App Store that allows users to choose between an English or French interface and also receive news content in either language.

"Metro is quickly establishing itself as a leader in the mobile space and we're the only daily newspaper publishing in both official languages, so it makes sense that we would be the ones to reach this milestone first," said Jodi Brown, marketing and interactive director for Metro Canada.

In September, Metro relaunched its mobile properties — which include a mobile-enabled website, applications for iPhone, BlackBerry and Windows mobile, and 2D barcodes in paper that link to mobile content — with a B2C marketing campaign in transit in Toronto and on TV and radio across the country.

Bill McDonald, group publisher for Metro English Canada, affirmed that Metro is optimistic about future mobile opportunities. "Metro has always had the advantage of being able to reach busy people while they are on-the-go. As we introduce new platforms and tools, we can make the Metro experience even more engaging and versatile, while simultaneously reinforcing the strength of our print brand." METRO NEWS SERVICES

"Metro is quickly establishing itself as a leader in the mobile space."
Jodi Brown, Metro

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Sports pg 23

Raps look for backup

On the web
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Local

Bryant joins top law firm

Former attorney general Michael Bryant, left, who is facing criminal charges after a car accident killed a cyclist last summer, is working at a top law firm in Toronto. John West, a senior partner at Ogilvy Renault, says Bryant has joined the firm as a senior adviser working with the energy law team. Bryant was charged with criminal negligence causing death and dangerous driving following an incident with cyclist Darcy Allan Sheppard on Aug. 31 in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INDEX

Canada Pg 8
World Pg 12
Comment Pg 19
Going Green Pg 21
Sports Pg 22
Celebrity Buzz Pg 35

Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
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Helping docs fight pandemics

Electronic records help health-care workers identify priority groups: eHealth president

Electronic medical records would be a huge help during pandemics because they allow doctors to quickly identify patients in high-risk categories, either by age or by underlying medical conditions, says interim eHealth Ontario president and CEO Rob Devitt.

Doctors in Peterborough are "pioneers" in using computerized records for their patients and had a much easier time identifying people who were in priority groups for the H1N1 vaccine than doctors who are still using paper records for every patient, Devitt said in a recent interview.

"Pre-(electronic medical records), if I wanted to call all my patients (in priority groups) ... I would have had to have someone come in and pull all these paper charts and go through each one, and of course miss stuff," he said.

"Probably you wouldn't even do it because it would be such a huge task, but (with electronic records) a couple of key strokes and it's done."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mining health-care gold

- The data that can be mined from the information gathered by eHealth can be pure gold and help save lives as well as precious health-care dollars, says eHealth president Rob Devitt.

For example, it turns out there are 906,577 people with diabetes in Ontario — something no one knew before — and only one-third get the basic tests they should have for blood sugar levels and cholesterol as well as regular eye exams.

Man wanted after slaying of woman in downtown apartment

MURDER Spring Phillips invited a casual acquaintance to stay the night in her St. Jamestown apartment.

The next day, she was found dead.

The 26-year-old's body was discovered around noon Saturday in her 27th-floor Wellesley Street East apartment.

Police have issued a second-degree murder warrant for Levi Samuel Aggek.

Det. Hank Idsinga said it was a "violent" crime scene, and said the apartment showed signs of a long struggle.

Levi Aggek

Spring Phillips

"There was quite a lot of blood throughout the apartment. It looked like it did carry on for some time," he said.

After canvassing the apartment, police believe the murder took place between 12:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m.

Aggek, originally from the east coast, moved to Toronto about three months ago and frequented local shelters, police said.

Phillips, the mother of a 3-year-old girl, had known the man for only a few days, Idsinga said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fundraiser **Raising the gingerbread roof**

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brad Bortolotto nibbles on some construction material as Mylinh Elliott and daughter Ava decorate a gingerbread house at Habitat for Humanity Toronto's 7th Annual Gingerbread Build. The two-day fundraiser drew 750 participants.

News in brief

EXTRADITION Toronto police say extradition proceedings are underway in Mexico for two people arrested in the slaying of a Toronto teacher last July. Connie Valencia-Russo's body was found in the trunk of her car behind a north Toronto apartment building two days after disappearing from her nearby home. Police had issued murder warrants for Juan Antonio Reyes, 23, and Ana Laura Rodrigues, 19.

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Girl charged in abduction to appear in court

A 14-year-old girl facing several charges, including abduction, is slated to appear in court again this morning. The girl was found with 10-month-old Kamren Cunningham after he went missing from his mother's home near Lawrence Avenue West and Weston Road. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Virgin reviving dreams

Commercial spaceflight gives hope to wannabe astronauts

After studying space physics and learning how to fly, John Criswick's childhood dream of becoming an astronaut was shattered in 1992 when he did not get selected by the Canadian Space Agency.

But the CEO of Magmic Games should finally get his chance to go into space within the next two years — although it will cost him $200,000 US.

The Canadian businessman has booked a space flight with Virgin Galactic, one of many companies belonging to tycoon Richard Branson.

In fact, Criswick was the first Canadian among the 300 astronauts who have already made reservations for a trip into sub-orbital space on board SpaceShipTwo.

"It's going to be in my lifetime," Criswick, 46, told The Canadian Press, adding he had "a lot of confidence in what Virgin Galactic was doing."

"I'll be ready to go in 2011, 2012."

Criswick studied space physics at Toronto's York University and spent a summer at the International Space University in France. He is one of 14 Canadians, including at least one woman, who have booked the two-hour space flight, which features several minutes of weightlessness.

"I'll be ready to go in 2011, 2012." John Criswick, future space tourist

The Canadians include people from Montreal, Toronto and Calgary.

Criswick will be in Mojave, Calif., today for the official unveiling of SpaceShipTwo, which has two pilots and can carry six passengers.

When it finally goes into operation, the spaceship will be launched from WhiteKnightTwo, a carrier plane, after being flown 50,000 feet into the air.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VIRGIN GALACTIC HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Criswick, an Ottawa entrepreneur who has booked a $200,000 US flight on board Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, stands in front of the plane at its unveiling in July 2008.

Outreach program a success, RCMP says

COMMUNITY They sat through more than 12 hours of lectures. They learned how the RCMP got its name, the perils of cyberspace and the extent of the underground drug trade.

But for the dozen or so people in the basement of Anatolia mosque in Mississauga, the six-week long Citizen's Academy course comes down to this — a friendly neighbourhood visit from your local CSIS agent and national security RCMP officer.

Office Konrad Shourie believes the Mounties' novel community outreach program, aimed at giving the RCMP and Muslim community a way to build bridges, is working.

"I have already received emails, five emails from participants, inviting me to different events, asking for more information or just thanking us for the session," he said.

The hope is that, when this group graduates Tuesday night with a Citizen's Academy certificate, they will become "ambassadors" for the RCMP.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Thieves strike three homes on Friday

THEFT No one quarter of the city was exempt from jewellery and camera thieves Friday, leaving many homeowners with broken doors and missing goods.

A resident of Clarement Street, at Bathurst and Dundas Street West, left between the hours of 7:30 am to 4 pm, only to come home to a broken front-door and missing jewelry, digital cameras, and personal identification.

A resident of Black Creek Boulevard, between Scarlett Road and Jane Street just south of Eglinton Avenue West met the same fate on Friday, as did a resident of Dufresne Court, east of the Don Vally Parkway and south of Eglinton Avenue East.

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RCMP told of second possible Makniashvili sighting

The RCMP says it has received a second report of a possible sighting of a missing Toronto girl in Alberta. Investigators say they got a tip Thursday that a girl matching the description of Mariam Makniashvili had been in Grande Prairie, Alta., on Wednesday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Making essay structure fun

It's essay crunch time on campus. Kelsi O'Rourke had three papers due last Wednesday in women's studies, neuroscience and psychology.

But as she worked late, the Brock University student would click on an unusual online game — "even at 5 a.m." — to remind herself about essay structure, forming arguments and citing sources.

Essay Zone, a flashy web tutorial designed by Brock staff, uses graphics, jokes and quizzes to teach students how to write a post-secondary essay.

It's one way universities are scrambling to shore up the writing skills of students whom they say, without Grade 13, bring less maturity and knowledge to the post-secondary table. It's a concern at universities across the GTA.

"As much as high school tries to prepare you for university essays, it can never prepare you enough — I'm still handing in essays in second year that I think will get better marks than they get," said O'Rourke, 19, a psychology major. "So I found it helped to have a tool I could click on at any hour because I've never had anyone actually teach me how to write a university essay."

Jill Brindle, Brock's learning skills manager, designed the game for students who were too self-conscious to meet face-to-face. "So we made it like a game — very playful, with humour and lots of click-and-drag activities that give immediate feedback."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Other schools

- Used by more than 2,000 Brock students, Essay Zone has drawn interest from schools in Montreal, Calgary, Texas and Hong Kong.

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COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Coun. Joe Pantalone and local theatre mogul David Mirvish, son of Honest Ed's founder Ed Mirvish, hand out free turkeys at the store's annual giveaway.

Honest Ed's shoppers take home the turkey

HOLIDAYS Hundreds of people lined up for yesterday's Honest Ed's annual turkey giveaway in downtown Toronto.

The below-zero temperatures overnight didn't keep people from lining up outside the popular discount store.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, the Mirvish family, which owns and operates the store, also handed out theatre tickets to people who were there early to get turkey and fruitcake. The giveaway is a 22-year tradition started by the store's founder, Ed Mirvish, in 1987.

Young cast members from the Toronto production of the Sound of Music were also on hand to spread cheer.

Some of those lining up for free fowl said they'll be giving away their free turkey to needy families.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

10,000 Over 10,000 pounds of turkey were handed out at yesterday's annual giveaway.

Police investigate shooting outside North York home

DEATH Homicide detectives hope surveillance video from neighbourhood businesses will lead them to who killed a 24-year-old man outside a North York townhouse.

Police think a soured drug deal might be behind the slaying shortly before 3:30 a.m. yesterday on San Pietro Way, near Islington Avenue and Steeles Avenue West.

Neighbours said the victim, a young man they knew as Kirk, was visiting his mother, a longtime resident of the complex.

Reports said Kirk was sitting in an SUV outside the townhouse, when he was approached by another man.

He got out of the vehicle and was gunned down. The shooter fled toward a nearby strip plaza.

The shot man was taken to Sunnybrook hospital, but died from his wounds.

"He was a good boy," recalled a neighbour, who said she had known the slain man "since he was a little boy. But he hasn't lived here for quite a while."

Police were withholding his name until relatives abroad are notified.

"This does not look like a random act," said homicide Det.-Sgt. Peter Moreira, who believes the victim was "targeted."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"This does not look like a random act."
Det.-Sgt. Peter Moreira

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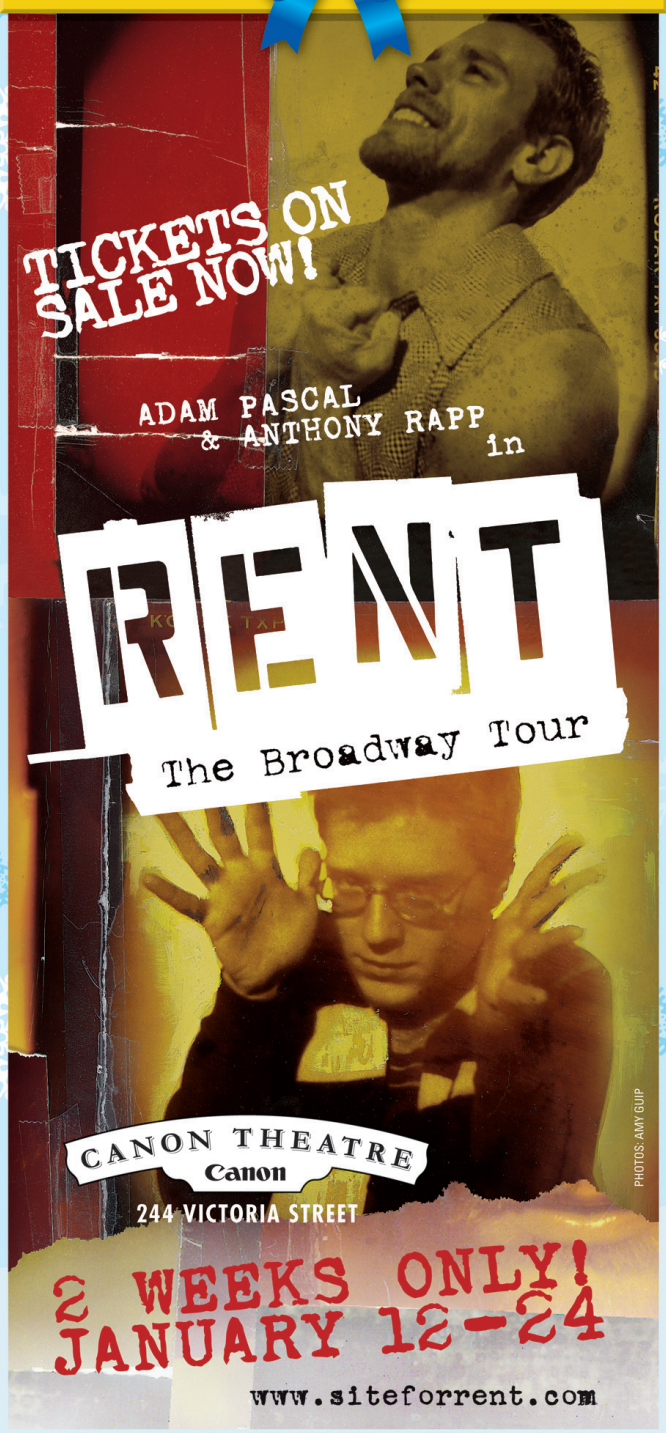

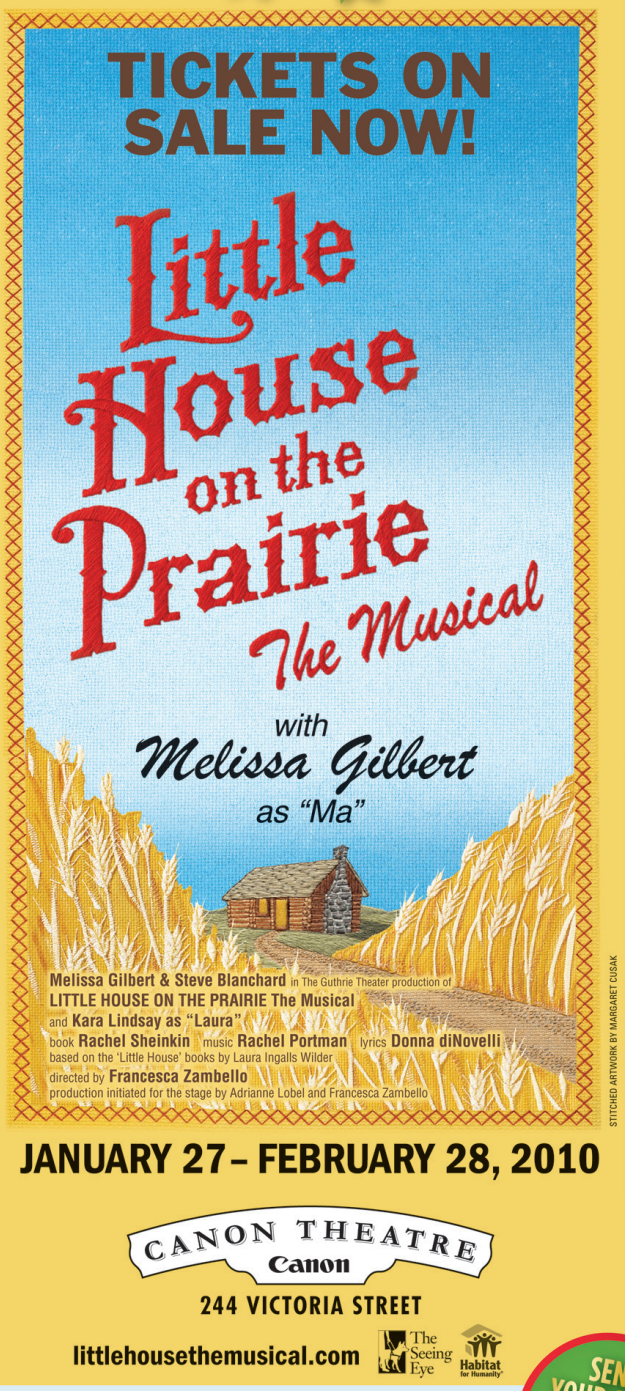

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Man, youths charged with murder
A man and three others under the age of 18 have been charged with murder after someone walked into a house party in Winnipeg and opened fire, killing two young men. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Storm dumps on Atlantic region

An early winter storm dumped 10 to 15 centimetres of snow on much of the Maritimes yesterday, and is expected to peak in Newfoundland and Labrador's Avalon Peninsula with larger accumulations and strong winds. Nova Scotia Power was reporting power outages for about 5,000 customers around the province, while NB Power was reporting about 1,700 customers had lost power due to the storm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charest losing support

POLITICS The political tides are shifting on Quebec Premier Jean Charest, whose seemingly impenetrable ship has been taking on water in recent weeks.

Jean Charest

Thanks to a succession of scandals, mainly at the municipal level, a Charest government that coasted to a third electoral mandate last year and then sailed through a recession has seen its impressive lead disappear in one recent poll.

Charest's headaches began with shocking allegations of corruption involving construction companies, municipal politicians and the Italian Mafia.

Those scandals didn't involve his government but they became his problem when, in the face of widespread demands for a public inquiry, Charest steadfastly declined to call one and sustained daily attacks for his refusal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRASH The investigation continues into a fatal single vehicle crash on a rural road just east of Pembroke, Ont. Saturday night's crash claimed the life of an 18-year-old man. The name of the victim has not been released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Torch relay to face protesters

VANOC to decide whether runners will be given police escort

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Fists clenched in anger will soon be popping up beside red-mittened hands waving in pride along the torch relay for the 2010 Olympic Games.

The first half of the relay's 45,000 kilometre journey has been largely devoid of protests, but as the torch is now on its way back across the country, that is going to change.

Even the police know they've had an easy go so far, with only one major protest on the first day.

"I think we can already reasonably predict a couple more areas across the country where things will get a little more interesting," said RCMP Assistant Commissioner Bud Mercer, who is in charge of Olympic security.

The first potential for a flare-up is on Tuesday.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Olympic gold medallist Sylvie Bernier carries the Vancouver 2010 Olympic torch Friday in Levis. Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports

That day, the torch is supposed to pass through the First Nations community of Kahnawake, Que.

Some residents are threatening to block the relay if the flame is escorted by the RCMP, as they regard the police force as foreign.

The decision now rests with the Vancouver organizing committee as to whether to allow local police to escort the flame or reroute the relay, and as of Sunday, they hadn't made up their mind.

If they choose to try and go through with the RCMP escort, they will meet resistance.

"Our official position is we're not in favour of the torch, but we're not going to stop it because we're not going to go against our own people or fight our own people because of the torch," said Lynn Norton with the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake, which differs in position from the band council which supports the presence of the RCMP alongside the flame.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Protests along the Olympic torch route are likely to ramp up as the flame heads west. Scan this barcode for the full article.

RCMP watchdog to release conduct report

TASER INCIDENT The independent body in charge of keeping watch over the RCMP will release its report this week into the death of Robert Dziekanski, assessing the conduct of the four officers who repeatedly stunned him with a Taser at Vancouver's airport.

The report by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP will also look at the subsequent police investigation of his death, which has come in for harsh criticism as details have emerged at a British Columbia public inquiry.

While the high-profile inquiry in Vancouver has been grabbing headlines and stirring controversy, the commission has spent the past year quietly conducting its own investigation.

Commission chairman Paul Kennedy will be in Vancouver on Tuesday as he releases his findings about what happened in the early morning of Oct. 14, 2007.

There are persistent questions and an ongoing legal challenge by the officers involved over whether the public inquiry, which was ordered by the B.C. government and finished hearings in October, has any power to pass judgement on members of a national police force.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Encounter

- Dziekanski's fateful encounter with RCMP took place more than two years ago. They were accused at the inquiry of using too much force and then lying about what happened to justify their actions.

Prices may rise with temperatures

ICE ROADS The cost of everything from milk to gas in northern Manitoba could be driven up as warmer winter weather threatens ice roads that stretch thousands of kilometres into remote communities. The winter roads, crucial lifelines for about two dozen aboriginal communities, are usually being prepared by now across frozen ground.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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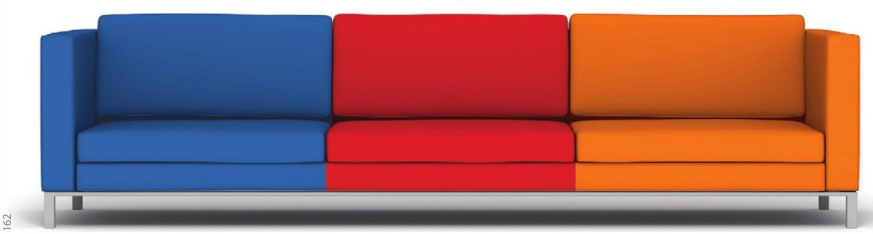

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162

Freed hostage coming home
Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout, who was held hostage for 15 months in Somalia, is expected to return home this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marking 20 years since the Montreal Massacre

Legacy of gun control laws still contentious

About 300 people gathered yesterday in a downtown park in Montreal to mark the 20th anniversary of Canada's worst mass shooting.

They came to pay tribute to the 14 women who were killed by Marc Lépine at the University of Montreal's École polytechnique on Dec. 6, 1989. Lépine turned the gun on himself after a rampage during which he targeted female students and said that "feminists" had ruined his life. The attack also left 13 people wounded.

Similar ceremonies were expected to take place across the country.

The massacre prompted a toughening of Canada's gun control laws.

But last month, Conservatives MPs, along with a handful of Liberals and New Democrats, voted in principle to kill the country's long-gun registry.

The move sparked an emotional response in Quebec as Montreal's police chief, survivors of the massacre, and a gun victim's mother urged politicians to keep the registry.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement that Canadians must remain committed to ending violence against women.

"On Dec. 6, 1989, 14 bright, talented, young women were murdered at l'École polytechnique de Montréal in one of the most tragic acts of violence against women in our country's history," he said.

"Their deaths galvanized the need to end violence against women in the hearts and minds of Canadians.

"Today, on Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women, we should all take time to remember and reaffirm our commitment to continue working to protect the lives, dignity and equality of all women."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Catherine Lauzon was among those paying respects yesterday at the memorial to the attack at Montreal's École polytechnique.

Invasive Asian carp edge closer to the Great Lakes

ECOSYSTEM They can weigh 40 kilograms, eat nearly half their weight in plankton each day, and have been known to bludgeon anglers as they leap from the water.

If their advance through U.S. waterways isn't halted, two species of Asian carp could become the next big threat to the already unstable Great Lakes ecosystem and its multi-million-dollar fishery.

Canadian officials have been helping coordinate a mass fish slaughter along a Chicago-area canal in a bid to stop the carp's advance toward Lake Michigan.

Illinois authorities have dumped about 900 kilograms of the fish toxin rotenone into a nine-kilometre stretch of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Last week, officials announced they had found a single immature Asian carp among tens of thousands of dead fish.

"My guess is that if they get in (the Great Lakes), they'll wreak absolute havoc," said Peter Meisenheimer, executive director of the Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association. "They'll completely change the ecosystem."

Two electric barriers went up in 2002 and 2006 to deliver migrating fish a non-lethal jolt and change their course. But in July, scientists discovered DNA from Asian carp beyond the barrier, suggesting they may already be in Lake Michigan.

The worry is that the Asian carp, with no known predators, could devastate the Great Lakes by wiping out the bottom level of the food chain, leaving existing species with no food.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slippery fish

- The silver and bighead species of Asian carp were brought to North America in the 1970s to stem the spread of algae. They escaped from fish farms in the 1990s during flooding on the Mississippi River. Other invasive species have used the Chicago canal to enter the Great Lakes.

Jean may face anger over Canadian mining during Mexico visit

BAD TRIP Governor General Michaëlle Jean leaves today on a tour of Mexico, Costa Rica and Guatemala that may land her in the middle of a controversy.

Mexico City was the scene of an angry protest last week in front of the Canadian embassy, over the drive-by shooting of an anti-mining activist.

Michaëlle Jean

The activist was known for his criticism of Canadian mining companies, and protesters used the rally to complain about the harm they say Canadian mining is doing in Mexico.

Jean's schedule also includes a visit to Chiapas, where residents are upset about environmental damage resulting from mining projects run mainly by Canadian companies.

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B.C. man faces 33 sex charges
A Kelowna man faces 33 charges in connection with luring teenaged girls over the Internet. RCMP Staff Sgt. Terry McLachlan says Colin Maddocks allegedly offered to buy the girls — between 13 and 16 — alcohol, drugs and cigarettes in return for sexual favours. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

AUSTRALIA A Canadian citizen who has lived in Australia for nearly a decade says he has gone on a hunger strike to protest his imminent deportation to Canada. Ziad Chebib was in a detention centre in Melbourne yesterday after spending the past few years battling visa problems with the Australian government. After exhausting his appeals with the government, a hunger strike was the last card he had to play, Chebib said. Earlier this year, Chebib turned to the Canadian embassy in Australia for help. He said diplomats told him they had no say in an Australian immigration matter.

SEARCH A search is underway for an autistic boy who wandered away from his home in rural Cape Breton, N.S., without a winter coat, as an early winter storm hit the island. Seven-year-old James Delorey was apparently following the family's dog when he walked into the woods near South Bar at around 2 p.m. on Saturday. Several hours after the search started on Saturday, military officials in Halifax dispatched a Cormorant helicopter from Canadian Forces Base Greenwood, while boats searched the east side of Sydney harbour as well.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peterborough **Holiday splash**

CLIFFORD SKARSTEDT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

St. Peter's students, from left, Laurel McGillis, Ryan Sullivan, Brooke McGee and Laura Harrington make a splash from their hot tub during the annual Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade in Peterborough, Ont., on Saturday. The parade attracted 87 floats and a variety of marching bands.

Canada sticking to climate targets: MP

Country made whipping boy on environment

Go Green

Canada's climate negotiators won't leave any extra room in their suitcases to bring further concessions to global-warming talks in Copenhagen.

Environment Minister Jim Prentice says Canada's targets to reduce greenhouse gases aren't up for negotiation when countries meet today in the Danish capital.

"We have been through a lot of negotiation to this point, and we've put on the table targets that we know we can live with and are achievable," Prentice said last week.

"We've not put targets on the table that have some room built into them to increase them.

"We were very clear at the outset that to avoid a repetition of Kyoto, we would go into this process with real targets, practical targets that we know the country can achieve."

The Harper government's take-it-or-leave-it approach to Canada's targets comes as countries make their final preparations for what's expected to be a difficult 12 days of United Nations climate talks.

"We've put on the table targets that we know we can live with and are achievable."
Jim Prentice, environment minister

The conference has been portrayed by some as the world's last chance to strike a deal to avert the catastrophic effects of a warming planet.

But expectations have fallen recently because rich and developing countries still disagree on some key points, and there's not enough time left before the summit to break the deadlock.

Now nearly all participants believe the most that will come out of Copenhagen is a blueprint that sets out a timeline and a rough sketch of an eventual climate deal.

Canada's top climate-change envoy, Michael Martin, will lead a 47-member delegation of federal officials, opposition MPs and provincial representatives that includes several premiers and regional environment ministers.

Canada attracts its share of unwanted attention at climate talks, even though our emissions make up just a fraction of all the world's greenhouse gases.

Alberta's oilsands and the federal Conservatives' eschewing of commitments made by the previous Liberal government under the Kyoto Protocol, have made Canada a whipping boy on the environment.

The Conservative government aims to lower Canada's greenhouse gases 20 per cent from 2006 levels by 2020. But the Tories have yet to produce a detailed plan showing how they'll reach that goal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 18

It's too early to halt stimulus: PM

KOREA Rebounding labour markets are not sufficient for governments to start applying the brakes on stimulus programs, Stephen Harper will be telling his Group of 20 summit co-chair during a meeting today.

The prime minister's talks with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak will focus on preparations for next year's G20 summit of leading economies.

The main item on the agenda is exit strategies from stimulus packages.

Seoul is the last stop on Harper's sometimes rocky six-day Asian tour through Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, and was added to the schedule partly because the two countries are hosting next year's summit.

A senior government official says Harper is concerned that many countries are getting ahead of economic reality and may act too soon in withdrawing stimulus, particularly with China booming, Europe recovering, and signs of growth building in the United States and Canada.

A Harper aide says Harper will press on Lee that governments need to "finish the job" by implementing the stimulus measures they have promised before putting on the brakes, which could push many economies back into a tailspin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jobs

- The latest signs of building economic momentum came Friday when both Canada and the U.S. posted far better-than-expected employment numbers for November. Canada added a whopping 79,000 jobs.

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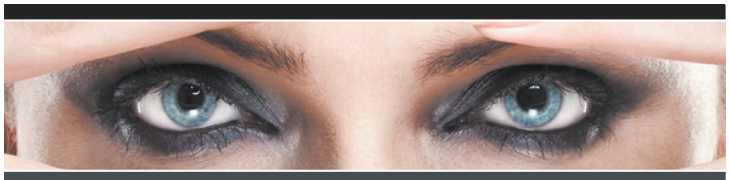

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Remembrance **92 years after blast**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

About 80 people braved a storm to attend yesterday's Halifax Explosion memorial service. On Dec. 6, 1917, two supply ships, one carrying munitions, collided in the Halifax harbour, creating a blast and fire that killed 2,000 people and injured 9,000.

Pullout may end training

Canada may end training programs for the Afghan National Army when it pulls its troops out of Kandahar in 2011.

Allies in NATO and the broader international community have been prodding Canada for details on what sort of mission it might undertake after 2011, the deadline set by Parliament for ending the country's combat presence in Kandahar and bringing home 2,800 troops.

But training of the fledgling Afghan military, known as the ANA, will likely not be on Canada's post-2011 agenda, according to domestic and foreign sources. That decision comes as the NATO-led mission faces serious shortages of foreign troops to train Afghan forces.

The Canadian Forces currently have at least five Operational Mentor Liaison Teams in the Kandahar region, and deploy more troops for joint patrols with Afghan security units throughout the dangerous southern province.

Training the ANA, as well as the Afghan National Police, is a pillar of the international exit strategy. Fully trained Afghan security forces would eventually pave the way for the full withdrawal of international forces, a key feature of U.S. President Barack Obama's Afghanistan plan, announced last week.

30,000 Additional U.S. troops being sent to Afghanistan

10,000 Increase of troops from other nations sought by U.S. President Obama at NATO conference last week

7,000 Additional troops promised by 20 countries, not including Canada

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 15

News in brief

MOUNTING BILLS The RCMP's four-year-old probe into the alleged leak of an income-trust taxation measure will soon have cost a half-million dollars. The investigation, a political bombshell during the 2005-2006 federal election campaign, eventually fizzled: no one was accused of any leak, though a civil servant was charged for allegedly profiting from inside information. As of last month, the Mounties had spent $445,000 on their probe, including almost $60,000 on travel and related expenses, the force said in response to an Access to Information Act request. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Student reportedly killed during clashes

Turkish police clashed with pro-Kurdish demonstrators denouncing new prison conditions for rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan yesterday. A 23-year-old university student died in hospital following the clashes, news reports said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

World Bank gives cash for statehood

The World Bank has given $64 million US to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank to help it prepare for statehood. Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad signed the agreement yesterday. World Bank official Shamshad Akhtar says the goal is to boost Fayyad's plan to set up institutions for a state within two years, though talks with Israel are stalemated. A World Bank delegation visiting the West Bank and Gaza Strip will also look for ways to ease entry of construction materials into Gaza. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece **Violence erupts**

KOSTAS TSIRONIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protester kneels in front of a riot police officer in Athens yesterday. Protesters hurled rocks and burning garbage at police as violence erupted during a march to mark the first anniversary of the police shooting of a teenager.

Where is bin Laden?

Osama bin Laden may be slipping back and forth from Pakistan to Afghanistan. Or the U.S. might not have a clue, more than eight years after the al-Qaida leader masterminded the terrorist attacks on America.

Given a chance yesterday to clear away some of the mystery surrounding the whereabouts of the world's most wanted terrorist, U.S. officials seemed to add to it with what appeared to be conflicting assessments.

President Barack Obama's national security adviser, James Jones, said that bin Laden, believed hiding mainly in a rugged area of western Pakistan, may be periodically slipping back into Afghanistan. But Obama's Pentagon chief, Robert Gates, said the U.S. has lacked good intelligence on bin Laden for a long time — "I think it has been years" — and did not confirm that he'd slipped into Afghanistan.

The failed hunt for bin Laden has been one of the signature frustrations of the global war on terrorism that former U.S. president George W. Bush launched after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The main explanation given by both the Bush and Obama administrations for not getting bin Laden is that they simply don't know where he is.

Jones, a retired Marine general, stressed the urgency of targeting bin Laden, and spoke of a renewed campaign to capture or kill him.

Asked on CNN's State of the Union whether the administration has reliable intelligence on bin Laden's whereabouts, Jones replied, "The best estimate is that he is somewhere in North Waziristan, sometimes on the Pakistani side of the border, sometimes on the Afghan side of the border."

Gates told ABC's This Week that "we don't know for a fact where Osama bin Laden is," although he agreed that his likely location is North Waziristan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AL JAZEERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Osama bin Laden videotaped at an undisclosed location in an October 2001 video sent to Al Jazeera.

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ScanLife

The ransom-fuelled luxury lifestyles of Somali pirates are creating havoc for the country's economy while infuriating its religious leaders.

News in brief

WASHINGTON U.S. President Barack Obama appealed directly to senators' desire for history-making change and their short-term political fears yesterday in urging them to stand together and overhaul the U.S. health care system. At the request of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Obama made a trip to the Capitol during a rare weekend session to ask rank-and-file Democrats to work for compromise and do it quickly.

BOLIVIA President Evo Morales appeared headed to easy re-election yesterday, with a strong mandate for further revolutionary change on behalf of Bolivia's indigenous majority.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran cuts Internet access on eve of demonstrations

TEHRAN On the eve of student demonstrations planned for today, Iran choked off Internet access and warned journalists working for foreign media to stay in their offices for the next three days.

The measures were aimed at depriving the opposition of its key means of mobilizing the masses as Iran's clerical rulers keep a tight lid on dissent.

Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi threw his support behind the student demonstrations and declared that his movement was still alive.

A statement posted on his website said the clerical establishment cannot silence students and was losing legitimacy in the Iranian people's minds.

28 Number of bloggers and journalists currently being held in Iran, according to Reporters Without Borders.

"A great nation would not stay silent when some confiscates its vote," said Mousavi, who claims President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stole the June 12 election victory from him by fraud.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, accused the opposition yesterday of exposing divisions in the country and creating opportunities for Iran's enemies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Freight ($1,330/$1,330/$1,330/$1,330/$1,325), license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes are not included. Cash purchase price reflects discounts or other incentives that are only available when consumers opt for cash purchase offers. By selecting lease or finance offers consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in a higher effective interest rate. ‡Financing on approved GMAC credit only. 0% purchase financing for 36 months available on 2009/2010 Chevrolet Aveo/Cobalt. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 36 months, the monthly payment is $277.78. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $10,000. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payments may be higher or lower depending on applicable taxes. Offer may change or end without notice and may not be combined with other offers. Not all customers will qualify. 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Residents of Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut are excluded from the Government's Retire Your Ride program and are therefore ineligible for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive. Some conditions apply. Visit www.retireyourride.ca for more information.

Cruise ship gets special treatment

The U.S. Coast Guard says it will set up a special safety zone around St. Thomas harbour for a port call by the world's biggest cruise ship. Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas will steam in tomorrow after travelling from the company's private Labadee port in northern Haiti on its maiden voyage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

GENDER The two female winners of this year's Nobel Prize in medicine urged scientific institutions yesterday to change their career structures to help more women reach top positions. Americans Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Carol W. Greider said as many women as men start out in science but are often unable to advance after having children because of a lack of flexibility.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four in custody over Russian club blaze

INVESTIGATION Four people were ordered to remain in jail yesterday pending an investigation into a nightclub fire that killed at least 112 people in Russia's worst blaze in decades, investigators said.

About 130 remained hospitalized, many in critical condition, with injuries from the early Saturday blaze, which witnesses said was sparked by onstage fireworks that shot into the decorative twig ceiling of the Lame Horse club in the Ural Mountains industrial city of Perm. Shocked and grieving relatives yesterday began to bury the victims of the disaster.

The federal Investigative Committee said the suspects — the club's owner, the executive director, the artistic director and a businessman hired to install pyrotechnics on the night of the blaze — were ordered taken into custody yesterday by Leninsky District Court.

The committee's website said they were suspected of negligence causing multiple deaths and violating fire safety rules causing multiple deaths.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

U.S. President Barack Obama, shown in this file photo, will pick up his Nobel Peace prize in Europe this week.

Next stop for Obama-mania

U.S. president to land in Europe this week

Europeans might have reason to feel disappointed with Barack Obama.

The American president arrives this week in Europe to pick up his Nobel Peace prize just as he has nearly doubled the U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan. This fall, Obama found plenty of time to tour Asia, while missing the 20th anniversary celebrations of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

And Obama originally planned to spend just four hours at the Copenhagen conference on global warming, which for many Europeans is the world's No. 1 problem.

Nevertheless, Obama-mania lives on in the hearts of millions here.

A poll released Friday and conducted in the five major European powers — France, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Spain — and the United States, showed that Obama has retained the support of the vast majority of the Europeans polled, even as his rating sagged in the U.S.

83% In Friday's Harris Online poll done with FRANCE 24 television, Obama had 83 per cent support in Italy, 82 per cent support in France, 81 per cent in Germany, 79 per cent in Spain and 72 per cent in Britain.

The president's continued high standing in Europe may be due in part to the deep-rooted hostility Europeans have harboured for his predecessor, George W. Bush.

Europeans seem to sense that even if he only shows his face at Copenhagen and has failed to sway his own Democratic Congress to do more on global warming, Obama will likely be bringing to the climate table far more than they could ever have expected from Bush.

Obama on Friday altered his plans and will join the crucial last week of the meeting amid shifts in the Chinese and Indian positions, reviving some hope of a major breakthrough.

"It sounds like he's still the bee's knees for everyone in Britain. He's fabulous," said Sarah Hodgkin, a civil servant from Essex, England. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rocket puts U.S. military satellite in orbit
A rocket carrying an Air Force satellite that will be used by the military blasted off Saturday from Cape Canaveral. This is the last launch of a group of three satellites. The first, launched last year, covers the Pacific Ocean. The second is over the Indian Ocean. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOBY TALBOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vermont National Guard Sgt. Wesley Black bids farewell to his wife before a deployment ceremony in Burlington, Vt., yesterday.

Gates, Clinton push Obama's Afghan plan

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates says Americans should expect a significant U.S. military presence in Afghanistan for two to four years more.

Just as in Iraq, the U.S. eventually will turn over provinces to local security forces, allowing the United States to bring the number of troops down steadily, according to Gates, who appeared on three television talk shows yesterday with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to discuss President Barack Obama's new Afghan war plan.

That plan includes an increase of 30,000 U.S. troops, followed by a scheduled transition to a greater role for Afghan forces that would start in July 2011.

Gates acknowledged that the additional U.S. forces will mean more casualties at first. The Pentagon chief said the initial U.S. troop withdrawal in July 2011 might involve only a small number of troops.

He rejected suggestions that setting a transition date would embolden the Taliban. They read newspapers and are able to determine public opinion in the U.S. and Europe, he said.

On TV
- Clinton and Gates were on ABC's This Week, CBS' Face the Nation and NBC's Meet the Press.

Clinton said one area that may not show much progress is winning over Taliban leaders. They "have to renounce al-Qaida, renounce violence. They have to be willing to abide by the constitution of Afghanistan and live peacefully," she said.

But both Clinton and Gates said having a target date will help move both countries toward a successful transition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

EGYPT The former chief of the UN's nuclear agency critiqued Egypt's lack of democracy after reform-minded Egyptian youths urged him to come home and run for president. In an open letter published in newspapers over the weekend, Mohamed ElBaradei said he would only consider the prospect if the constitution were amended to allow any Egyptian to run for president and remove restrictions that make it nearly impossible for independents or newcomers to enter the race.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Both candidates claim victory in Romania

ELECTION Both candidates claimed victory in Romania's presidential race yesterday, leaving the outcome uncertain in an election Romanians hope can pull the country out of its worst political and economic crisis in 20 years.

Three exit polls showed the country's left-leaning ex-foreign minister Mircea Geoana appearing to lead incumbent Traian Basescu with just over half the vote.

Geoana, leader of the Social Democrats who has branded himself a unifier and team builder, declared himself the winner, calling the results of the exit polls "a victory for normalcy, a victory for decency, for all citizens who want a better life."

But Basescu claimed the exit polls were deceptive.

Traian Basescu

"You will see the manipulations on the television stations … Today you can trust me fully when I tell you I won," he said.

The first official vote tallies are expected today.

Turnout was high at about 57 per cent. The election, which has been marked by scandal and allegations of voter fraud, was seen as crucial to Romania, which is facing skyrocketing unemployment and a limping government since the ruling coalition fell apart two months ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Protestors parade 100 animal carcasses on Animal Rights Day

Animal rights activists have taken to the streets of downtown Madrid to mark International Animal Rights Day, carrying the carcasses of 100 animals they say were retrieved from slaughterhouses, fur, poultry and pig farms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talks on climate pact start today

UN official fears stolen emails may fuel skepticism on global warming

Go Green

The world is entering talks on a new climate pact with unprecedented unity and leaders must seize the moment to create a turning point in the battle against global warming, the UN's top climate official said yesterday.

At a news conference, Yvo de Boer called on the 192 countries represented at the United Nations' climate summit starting today "to deliver a strong and long-term response to the challenge of climate change."

Even so, he worried that emails pilfered from a British university would fuel skepticism among those who believe that scientists exaggerate global warming.

PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A child is seen next to a melting ice statue of a polar bear in the center of Copenhagen, Denmark, yesterday, one day before the climate summit begins.

"I think a lot of people are skeptical about this issue in any case," de Boer told The Associated Press earlier yesterday. "And then when they have the feeling ... that scientists are manipulating information in a certain direction then of course it causes concern in a number of people to say 'you see I told you so, this is not a real issue.'"

Emails stolen from the climate unit at the University of East Anglia appeared to show some of world's leading scientists discussing ways to shield data from public scrutiny and suppress others' work.

Those who deny the influence of man-made climate change have seized on the correspondence to argue that scientists have been conspiring to hide evidence about global warming.

"This correspondence looks very bad," de Boer said, but noted that the matter was being investigated by the university, police and the head of the UN's expert panel on climate change. He also defended the research — reviewed by some 2,500 scientists — that shows man has fueled global warming by burning fossil fuels.

"I think this is about the most credible piece of science that there is out there," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Take care of the planet, Pope says

Go Green

CREATION Pope Benedict XVI has told world leaders attending the climate summit in Copenhagen that caring for God's creation requires they adopt sober and responsible lifestyles.

Benedict said yesterday he hoped the meeting, which opens today, would outline actions that respect creation and promote development while respecting human dignity and the common good.

Benedict has spoken out frequently about the need to care for the planet, dedicating a good part of his last encyclical to the issue.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. can do more to help: Official

Go Green

LEGISLATION The head of the UN's climate science network says the United States can do more than it has offered in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Rajendra Pachauri tells the AP "there is scope for going above what is going to be legislated," referring to bills working their way through the U.S. Congress.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASA to get WISE view of space

TELESCOPE NASA's latest space telescope will scan the sky in search of never-before-seen asteroids, comets, stars and galaxies, with one of its main tasks to catalogue objects posing a danger to Earth.

The sky-mapping WISE, or Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer, is scheduled to launch no earlier than before dawn Friday from Vandenberg Air Force Base on the central California coast aboard a Delta 2 rocket.

Six-month job

- Scientists estimate it will take six months for WISE to peruse the entire sky. The spacecraft will circle the Earth 15 times a day and take about 7,500 images a day in four infrared wavelengths.

If all goes as planned, WISE will orbit some 523 kilometres above the Earth and produce the most detailed map yet of the cosmos. It is designed to detect objects that give off infrared light or heat. Infrared light is ideal for uncovering dusty, cold and distant objects that often can't be seen by optical telescopes.

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2009 HOLIDAY PROGRAM GUIDE

CBC

December

Sunday, Nov. 29	**8 pm**	Elf
Wednesday, 2	**9 pm**	Stars On Ice 2009: On The Edge
Friday, 4	**7 pm ET**	CBC's Hockey Night in Canada: Canadiens 100th Anniversary Game: Boston at Montreal
Saturday, 5	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Toronto at Boston
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Calgary at San Jose
Sunday, 6	**5 pm**	Disney's Eloise at Christmastime
	8 pm	Happy Feet
Monday, 7	**8 pm**	The Santa Clause
Tuesday, 8	**8 pm**	Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town
Wednesday, 9	**8 pm**	Dragons' Den Holiday Special
	9 pm	Greg Frewin Magic Man: Home For The Holidays
Thursday, 10	**8 pm**	Deck the Halls with Steven & Chris
Friday, 11	**8 pm**	The Santa Clause 2
Saturday, 12	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Washington at Toronto
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Minnesota at Vancouver

Sunday, 13	**5 pm**	Disney's Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause
	7 pm	Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
	8 pm	The Polar Express
Monday, 14	**8 pm**	Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas
	8:30 pm	Frosty the Snowman
	9 pm	Merry Christmas, Mr. Bean
	9:30 pm	Stuart McLean's Vinyl Café Christmas Pageant
Tuesday, 15	**8 pm**	Disney's Mickey's Christmas Carol
	8:30 pm	Frosty Returns
	9 pm	The Legend of Frosty
Wednesday, 16	**8 pm**	Christmas Dreams, Starring Cynthia Dale
	9 pm	Holiday Festival on Ice 2009
Thursday, 17	**8 pm**	Miracle on 34th Street (1994)
Friday, 18	**8 pm**	Home Alone
Saturday, 19	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Boston at Toronto
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Washington at Edmonton

Schedule subject to change. Check local listings.

Sunday, 20	**5 pm**	Disney's I'll Be Home For Christmas
	7 pm	Winnie the Pooh & Christmas, Too
	7:30 pm	Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas
	8 pm	National Lampoon's: Christmas Vacation
Monday, 21	**8 pm**	Best of Just For Laughs
	8 pm	The Hour Holiday Special
Tuesday, 22	**8 pm**	A Christmas Story
Wednesday, 23	**8 pm**	Scrooge
Thursday, 24	**8 pm**	Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
	11 pm	The Hour Holiday Special

Christmas Day

Friday, 25	**10 am**	Wonderful World of Disney Parade featuring Steven & Chris
	12 noon	Queen's Message
	12:08 pm	The Forgotten Toys
	12:30 pm	The Little Drummer Boy
	1 pm	Frosty Returns
	1:30 pm	Robbie the Reindeer
	2 pm	Booky and The Secret Santa
	4 pm	White Christmas
	8 pm	The Secret of the Nutcracker
	9:30 pm	Merry Christmas, Mr. Bean

Saturday, 26	**6:30 pm ET**	Scotiabank Hockey Tonight
	7 pm ET	HNIC: Montreal at Toronto
	10 pm ET	HNIC: Edmonton at Vancouver
Sunday, 27	**5 pm**	The Incredibles
	7 pm	Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire
Monday, 28	**8 pm**	Cirque du Soleil: Kooza
Tuesday, 29	**8 pm**	Anne Murray: Friends & Legends
	9 pm	Holiday Festival on Ice 2009
Wednesday, 30	**8 pm**	Bridget Jones's Diary

New Year's Eve

Thursday, 31	**7 pm**	Best of Just For Laughs
	8 pm	Air Farce New Year's Eve
	9 pm	The Ron James Show: New Year's Eve Edition
	10 pm	The National
	11 pm	The Hour Holiday Special and New Year's Eve Countdown
	12 am	Air Farce New Year's Eve (Repeated)
Friday, Jan. 1	**7 am**	Kids' CBC New Year's Day Jamboree
	12:30 pm ET	HNIC: NHL Winter Classic Pre-game
	1 pm ET	HNIC: NHL Winter Classic: Philadelphia at Boston

THE HOUR
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Thursday, December 31

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Comment

Go rides getting longer

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

Not long ago I asked readers to send questions for GO Transit's Managing Director Gary McNeil. Long-time rider Des O'Callaghan of Georgetown wrote that GO keeps adjusting departure times so trains leave earlier:

Q "When I started riding the Georgetown train in 1986 the journey was scheduled at 48 minutes. Granted, the trains are more crowded and there is one extra station, but now the journey is 63 minutes — an increase of 31 per cent. It boggles my mind that the solution to their inability to run trains on time is to lengthen the schedule."

A McNeil responds: "Your reader's comment on service scheduling and reliability reflects the reality of what happens in a mixed use rail corridor that operates at capacity in the rush hours. Most of the delays are beyond GO's control, but we are constantly striving to improve our reliability across our network.

"The recent schedule adjustments on the Georgetown line reflected the fact dwell times have increased due to increased passenger volumes. Our schedules reflect the increase in loading time necessary for customers to safely, and effectively, board the trains.

"As well, the major construction at the West Toronto Diamond has introduced construction slow orders that will last for a number of years. A slow order is a local speed restriction — below the track's normal speed limit — that can be imposed while construction work is being performed. Wherever possible, we attempt to minimize construction delays for our customers.

"The Georgetown South Corridor track improvements will be very extensive, involving outreach to the community to explain the project. Our goal is to minimize the construction impacts, keeping in mind the need to maintain service for existing GO, VIA and CN/CPR freight services.

"We now have federal and provincial environmental assessment (EA) approval and are proceeding with the design and assessing various construction staging options.

"Service (on the Georgetown line) will be expanded as ridership demand and the budget allows.

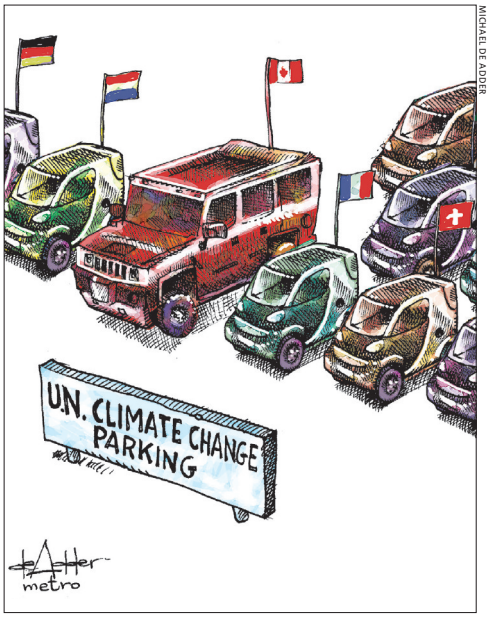
"Our construction plans anticipate significant construction to start in early 2010. The majority will be complete in early 2015 so service will be available for the Pan Am Games."

See McNeil's full response plus my view at metronews.ca/eddrass.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Quick Tip

• TTC subway collectors should by now have plenty of tickets on hand, but if they are sold out you may not have to pay $2.75 cash fare. Instead the rate may be $2.25 — ask first.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Key to happy holiday? Start early

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Today in our series on Prepping for the Holidays: Planning Ahead.

Everyone knows the key to a successful event is planning ahead. That and ignoring any person who says, "Let's do a 1980s fashion theme again."

When it comes to the holidays, I am a believer in making careful, early plans. I don't actually do it, but I'm a great believer in it. Usually, my holiday shopping plans go like this:

August: This year, plan ahead. Make list. Buy lovely thoughtful gifts for my two sisters and hide them away. Feel smug. Ignore gift list for the rest of month.

September: Cannot find list. Make new one. Nephews want Turbo-Ranger dolls at $44.95 each. Decide to wait till they go on sale. Buy lovely thoughtful gifts for my two sisters. Remember I already got them something. Damn. Could possibly give it to newspaper delivery man. Wonder if he likes 'cinnamon mist' body spray. Need to regroup. Abandon shopping efforts.

October: Determined to start immediately. At first store, buy Halloween candy and decorations. Enough shopping. Have coffee. Go home.

November: Really serious now. March into store and buy lovely, thoughtful gifts for my two sisters. Damn. Wonder if free sample that came with make-up purchase can be given to best friend without her knowing. Break down and decide to purchase "Turbo-Rangers." Stores are sold out. Company spent so much on advertising they could only afford to make six. Believe clerk who says, "We're getting more next week." Buy Christmas cards. Delighted to have finally accomplished something.

Early December: Have become source of entertainment to toy-store clerks, "Hey Joey! This woman wants to know if we have any Turbo-Rangers left!" Cannot mail cards because have not put personal, handwritten note in each yet.

Mid-December: Hate everyone on list. Would pay almost anything for Turbo-Ranger doll, but not the $300 being asked for on eBay. Consider becoming Eastern Orthodox to gain two more weeks of Christmas prep time.

Late December: Will buy anything for anyone. See everything as potential gift. "Hmmm … masking tape. Maybe my mother would like masking tape." Have completely forgotten where I hid gifts bought in August. Pour myself large rum and eggnog, sans eggnog, and try to forget.

Christmas Day: Everyone loves everything. Such joy to give gifts to people I love. Vow to address and mail cards asap. And next year, I'll start much earlier.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Worth mentioning

Rats! Reality TV stars charged with cruelty

COMPLAINT Two stars of the reality TV show "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here" have been charged with animal cruelty after allegedly killing and cooking a rat to eat during filming.

Chef Gino D'Acampo who won the viewer-feedback contest series, and actor Stuart Manning were charged after animal welfare activists lodged a complaint about a segment for the British TV program, which was filmed in Australia, the activists and British media reported Sunday.

In a statement to The Associated Press, New South Wales state police said yesterday two men, aged 33 and 30, were charged with animal cruelty for acts in connection to the program, but did not give names or other details.

They have been asked to appear in court to face the charge Feb. 3. The maximum penalty is three years in prison.

D'Acampo is 33 years old and Manning 30.

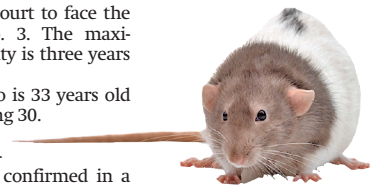
The show's producer, ITV, confirmed in a statement "the New South Wales RSPCA are currently looking into an incident in which a rat was killed in the camp."

"The killing of a rat for a performance is not acceptable. The concern is this was done purely for the cameras," David O'Shannessy of the New South Wales RSPCA told the British Broadcasting Corp.

He said producers were normally required to have animal welfare officers on set when animals were used during filming, but in this case it did not take place.

"I'm a Celebrity" strands C-list celebrities in the Australian jungle, subjects them to a series of icky trials involving spiders and snakes, and allows the public to vote them off the show one by one.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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OPEC unlikely to change output quotas, Saudi minister hints

Saudi Arabia's oil minister says the current global oil price is "perfect" and the market is stable. Ali Naimi's remarks Saturday came as key Arab OPEC ministers indicated the oil producing bloc was unlikely to change its production quotas when it meets Dec. 22 in Angola. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 94.53¢ (Friday's close)	US $4.58 (Friday's close)	US $75.47 (Friday's close)	11,510.80 (Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

New bid to break deadlock

INCO STRIKE A Sudbury-area MPP will soon be heading to Brazil in an attempt to make headway on the five-month Vale Inco strike.

Nickel Belt New Democrat France Gelinas will be leaving tomorrow on the two-day trip to meet with the country's leaders.

More than 3,000 mine and mill workers at the Sudbury operation have been on strike since mid-July.

Vale Inco's parent company is based in Brazil.

Gelinas says the country's government owns shares in Vale Inco and has some "veto power" over their actions.

Workers have been on strike over proposed pension changes, cuts to their nickel bonus, and seniority transfer rights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Investors keep eye on U.S. Fed

Jobs data turns focus on rates

Stock markets could find gains elusive this week even as last week's U.S. employment report for November raised hopes that an economic rebound is under way.

The data raised concerns about how the U.S. Federal Reserve might react to indications of a sharp slowdown in job losses and the Fed's meeting on interest rates will be the focus of attention this week.

Andrew Pyle, an investment adviser at ScotiaMcLeod in Peterborough, Ont., said the results which found that 11,000 people lost their jobs last month, compared with the 120,000 that had been expected, offered some relief for investors.

And that bodes well for the retail front, since the U.S. holiday shopping season got off to a tepid start.

Whether that strong jobs data can provide the spark for a year-end rally is up in the air. For one thing, Pyle thinks it would not be a good idea to take the U.S. jobs report and conclude after one month of data that the U.S. economy is out of the woods. For another, North American indexes are at or near their best levels of the year.

Investors are also concerned that the jobs report could get the Federal Reserve thinking about hiking rates from near zero or remove other supports sooner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Chinese wind power companies are making aggressive moves to cash in on green movement in Western markets. Scan this barcode for the full article.

CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Kuwait Investment Authority joined other big investors in pumping $12.5 billion US into Citigroup in January 2008.

Kuwait fund makes $1.1B profit on sale of Citi shares

FUND Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund said yesterday it booked a profit of $1.1 billion US by selling the stake it took in Citigroup Inc. less than two years ago when the banking giant was strapped for cash.

The Kuwait Investment Authority said it sold the preferred shares after converting them to common stock for $4.1 billion US. That works out to a gain of nearly 37 per cent on its $3 billion US investment.

At the same time it made its Citi investment, the fund took a $2 billion stake in Merrill Lynch. Merrill was later bought by Bank of America Corp., which last week surprised investors by paying back $45 billion in bailout money.

Analysts say that move puts pressure on Citi and other banks that tapped U.S. government aid to follow suit, even though they still could face further losses as consumers struggle to pay their bills.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Going Green

Need answers?
Want to know how the majority of the world's freight gets from one place to another? Or which country has no McDonald's? A new book, Snapshot: The Visual Almanac For Our World Today, covers it all. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Canada missing the target

Analysis shows U.S. green plan goes much further than Harper's

A U.S. plan to cut emissions goes much further than Canada's commitment despite government claims that the two countries now have matching targets, according to analysis by climate change experts and foreign government.

President Barack Obama announced his plan to cut emissions to 17 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020 at the climate change summit in Copenhagen. The U.S. figure is derived strictly from cuts that can be achieved by capping greenhouse gases and trading emissions permits.

The American commitment is similar to the Canadian government's plan to go 20 per cent below 2006 levels by 2020, a point Prime Minister Stephen Harper has used to fend off attacks from such critics as the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, who urged Harper to adopt a more ambitious target.

Expert analysis shows the U.S. plan will go much further in cutting emissions when additional measures are factored in like tougher fuel efficiency rules for cars, renewable electricity standards and investments in "green" development in poor countries, known in climate change parlance as clean development mechanism projects.

CHRISTIAN ASLUND/GETTY IMAGES
Greenpeace portrays an aged Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a billboard in Copenhagen.

"The Canadian target is quite a bit more moderate than the U.S. target."
John Drexhage, International Institute for Sustainable Development

All in, American emissions could go down between 28 and 34 per cent below 2005 levels in the next decade, according to a recent report by the Washington-based World Resources Institute.

Canada's target covers all national emissions cuts including fuel efficiency standards, investments in fighting deforestation and other greenhouse gas reduction schemes, said John Drexhage, climate change director at the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Ottawa.

"The U.S. is only comfortable ascribing to anything internationally that can be 100 per cent regulated, and that would only be the industries that are within a cap-and-trade system.

That's why many argue that the Canadian target is quite a bit more moderate than the U.S. target," he said.

Canada trails most developed countries in acting on climate change, and criticism from foreign governments, not just environmental activists — is becoming more pointed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cork oak forests coming under increasing threat

CELIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

WWF's Cork Oak Landscapes program.

CORK Plastic stoppers and screw caps in wine bottles are affecting cork oak forests, a jewel of biodiversity.

Each time a cork oak tree is harvested — every nine years — the bark regenerates and in doing so absorbs CO_2, three to five times more than non-harvested trees.

"Cork oak forests rank among the top biodiversity hotspots in the Mediterranean and in Europe. We must save the cork oak landscapes, a jewel of biodiversity not found elsewhere — full of treasures for people, yet ignored by many," said Nora Berrahmouni, coordinator of

Cork oak forests face a number of threats mainly the increasing use of cheaper plastic stoppers and screw caps for wine bottles, cork's main market.

This started in the 1990s in countries like Australia and United States due to the TCA problem (a rare chemical reaction that may spoil the wine) related to cork.

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Austrian wins World Cup super-G race

Elisabeth Goergl of Austria spoiled American Lindsey Vonn's bid for three World Cup wins in three days at Lake Louise by winning Sunday's super-G. Goergl posted a time of one minute 21.91 seconds, just .03 ahead of Vonn. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Alabama to play Texas

No. 1 Alabama will play No. 2 Texas in the BCS national championship game, a second straight Southeastern Conference versus Big 12 matchup to decide the title. Alabama (13-0) cruised into the national title game, winning the SEC championship with a 32-13 victory against defending national champion Florida on Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Saints improve to 12-0

NFL

Saints 33 **Redskins** 30 (OT)

AT

The New Orleans Saints are still perfect.

Garrett Hartley kicked an 18-yard field goal 6:29 into overtime yesterday, and the Saints improved to 12-0 with a 33-30 victory over the Washington Redskins.

The Saints clinched the NFC South with a far-from-perfect win that shows just how charmed their season is becoming. They trailed by seven points late in regulation when Washington's Shaun Suisham was wide right with a gimmie 23-yarder that would have sealed the victory for the Redskins (3-9).

Instead, Drew Brees led an 80-yard drive with no timeouts, taking just 33 seconds to tie the game. He hit a wide-open Robert Meachem over the middle for a 53-yard touchdown with 1:19 to play.

CHRIS MCGRATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robert Meachem of the New Orleans Saints catches a fumble by Kareem Moore of the Washington Redskins yesterday at FedEx Field in Landover, Md. The Saints won 33-30.

COLTS 27, TITANS 17

At Indianapolis, the Colts tied the NFL record for longest winning streak, beating Tennessee for its 21st consecutive regular-season victory.

The only other team to win that many in a row: New England from 2006-08. The Colts (12-0) can break the record next week at home against Denver.

RAIDERS 27, STEELERS 24

At Pittsburgh, Louis Murphy caught an 11-yard touchdown pass from Bruce Gradkowski with nine seconds remaining, his second score in the final 5 minutes, and Oakland scored three late touchdowns to deal Pittsburgh its fourth consecutive loss.

The Steelers (6-6), in danger of missing the playoffs after winning the Super Bowl for a second time in four seasons, went ahead 24-20 on Ben Roethlisberger's 11-yard touchdown pass to Hines Ward with 1:56 remaining, only to have the Raiders (4-8) rally and win it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

SOCCER Tottenham striker Jermain Defoe missed a stoppage time penalty as his side threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with a struggling Everton side in the Premier League yesterday

SPEEDSKATING Canada's women's team raced to a world record en route to gold in the team pursuit yesterday to continue a strong showing for the Canadians at a long-track speedskating World Cup.

NHL The NHL has suspended Flyers forward Dan Carcillo four games for his role in a fight that earned him 19 penalty minutes and a game misconduct.

CURLING Top seed Jennifer Jones and number two ranked Shannon Kleibrink were both losers on the first day of the Canadian Olympic curling trials.

TENNIS Spain lifted the Davis Cup for the second straight year yesterday after completing a 5-0 victory over the Czech Republic in the final.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Home stretch offers Leafs chance to climb standings

"We've been fighting for our lives from a few weeks back now ..."
Ian White

Even though they are fully aware of it, the Leafs received another reminder yesterday of how fortunate they are to play in a city where no matter how poorly they perform, there's always a love-in waiting for them when they return to home ice.

Thousands of fans spent two hours with the club at its 18th annual Skills Competition, an event coming the day after a 7-2 loss in Boston.

So far — with the NHL's worst home record — the Leafs failed to return that love. Beginning tonight, though, there is a chance to save the team's marriage with its fans from being a one way proposition.

Toronto enters a stretch where it plays seven home games in the next 15 days. Opportunities abound — chances to climb out of last place in their division, and even tighten the gap between themselves and a playoff berth — but nothing of matter will materialize before the team addresses its inability to perform at an acceptable standard on home ice.

"You'd think, yeah," Leafs defenseman Ian White said when asked if his team should leap at the favourable conditions on home ice instead of stumbling to a 2-7-3 home mark so far. "I can't explain it … you're sleeping in your own bed, you are home every day … so I'm not sure why.

"But it's crucial," White continued, referring to the upcoming home stretch. "We've been fighting for our lives from a few weeks back now and home ice hasn't been the best for us, now or in the last few years."

Indeed, the Leafs, over the past two seasons, have 36 road wins compared to 34 on home ice.

The futility cost coaches and players their jobs and extended the club's playoff drought to four years running.

The one constant remains the fans, who demonstrated that again yesterday.

The winners in the big three events — fastest skater, hardest shot, accuracy shooting — turned out to be Nik Kulemin, Francois Beauchemin, and Rickard Wallin, respectively. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Milestones for Tomlinson

San Diego running back LaDainian Tomlinson moved up two spots on one list of milestones and stands alone on another. Tomlinson moved into eighth place on the career rushing list yesterday against the Browns, passing both Jim Brown and Marshall Faulk, while becoming the fastest player to 150 career touchdowns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raps look to bench for boost

Marco Belinelli came off a screen, driving down the centre of the lane when he spied Amir Johnson making a smart cut along the baseline.

In the split second it took for Johnson's defender to move almost imperceptibly toward Belinelli to help out, the Raptors guard made one of his quick little bounce passes to Johnson, who caught the ball and finished at the rim.

It's the kind of play the Raptors need every night from their backups, the kind of production energy, efficiency and heady play that is going to help them when the starters suffer inevitable lapses.

And if they keep getting that kind of effort, the kind of play that led to 48 points from subs in an easy win in Chicago on Saturday, things may indeed get turned around for the 9-13 Raptors.

"We're a team and everybody has to be ready to play," said Chris Bosh, who sat the entire fourth quarter in the 110-78 rout of the Bulls. "When any of our teammates gets out there, we need to push each other."

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marco Belinelli, left, is one of the backup players that the Raptors are relying on to help them win games. The Raptors' backups had 48 points in Saturday's 110-78 win over the Chicago Bulls.

Toronto's bench has been quite productive for most of the season. While there are nights when none of them really haven't had it going, coach Jay Triano can usually count on one of Belinelli or Johnson, Jarrett Jack or Antoine Wright to do something to help the team.

The 48 points the Raptors backups scored Saturday — albeit attributable to the fact they played extensive minutes in a blowout — was the fourth highest off-the-bench production of the season's 22 games.

The most was 56 in an extended run in Wednesday's massacre in Atlanta but on most regular nights, getting good production from backups exponentially increases the chance of a win.

"More guys are playing and they're more involved," said Triano. "Because of that, they're buying in and they have great energy when they're out there. We knew we were going to go to the bench quite a bit (Saturday) because of a back-to-back and we've got some good basketball players coming off the bench."

Depth was always thought to be one of the Raptors' strengths this season, but it has taken longer than some expected for players to learn and accept their roles. Triano seems to have settled on something of a regular rotation that will continue to give some normalcy to each game.

And if the likes of Belinelli and Johnson can get used to playing for a specific number of minutes at a specific time, it will help them.

"That's going to be the sign of a good team, when you can find different guys who will step up," said the coach. "We just seem to be playing more as a unit."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In the absence of a friend, Furyk wins Woods' tournament

GOLF Jim Furyk ended more than two years without a victory yesterday when he holed key putts on the final two holes for a five-under 67 and a one-shot victory in the Chevron World Challenge.

It was a fitting conclusion to a week dominated by talk of host Tiger Woods: A guy wearing red shirts and dark pants came through with the clutch putts with the tournament on the line.

Woods, the tournament host, wasn't around to present the trophy to one of his favourite players on the PGA Tour. He withdrew because of injuries from his Nov. 27 car crash, although he was part of every conversation because of the worldwide publicity over allegations of extramarital affairs.

"Tough times," Furyk said. "So they need the support of their friends right now, and I know that people are thinking about them."

Over the final few hours, attention shifted to a golf tournament in which six players had a share of the lead at some point Sunday.

Furyk finished at 13-under 275 for a one-shot victory over Graeme McDowell, who replaced Woods in the 18-man field. McDowell needed to hole out from the fairway to force a playoff. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weir 14th

- Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., fired a 72 to settle for a tie in 14th.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Ottawa at Anaheim N

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Calgary 2 San Jose 1
Edmonton 3 Dallas 2 (SO)
Boston 7 TORONTO 2
Carolina 5 Vancouver 3
Phoenix 3 Ottawa 2
Atlanta 2 Florida 1 (SO)
Chicago 2 Pittsburgh 1 (OT)
Colorado 3 Columbus 2
Minnesota 5 Nashville 3
New Jersey 4 Detroit 3 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 2 Buffalo 1
St. Louis 5 Los Angeles 4 (SO)
Tampa Bay 4 N.Y. Islanders 0
Washington 8 Philadelphia 2
New Jersey at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

TODAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at TORONTO, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

New York 106 New Jersey 97
Cleveland 101 Milwaukee 86
Detroit 97 Washington 94
Miami at Sacramento N
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers N

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 110 Chicago 78
Atlanta 80 Dallas 75
Charlotte 106 Philadelphia 105
Denver 106 San Antonio 99
L.A. Clippers 88 Indiana 72
Minnesota 108 Utah 101
Orlando 126 Golden State 118
Phoenix 115 Sacramento 107
Portland 90 Houston 89

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 17 St. Louis 9
Oakland 27 Pittsburgh 24
Denver 44 Kansas City 13
Philadelphia 34 Atlanta 7
Cincinnati 23 Detroit 13
Miami 22 New England 21
New Orleans 33 Washington 30 (OT)
Indianapolis 27 Tennessee 17
Carolina 16 Tampa Bay 6
Jacksonville 23 Houston 18
San Diego 30 Cleveland 23
N.Y. Giants 31 Dallas 24
Seattle 20 San Francisco 17
Minnesota at Arizona

SOCCER

WORLD CUP GROUPS

Groups drawn Friday for the 2010 World Cup:

GROUP A
France, Mexico, South Africa, Uruguay
GROUP B
Argentina, Greece, Nigeria, South Korea
GROUP C
Algeria, England, Slovenia, United States
GROUP D
Australia, Germany, Ghana, Serbia
GROUP E
Cameroon, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands
GROUP F
Italy, New Zealand, Paraguay, Slovakia
GROUP G
Brazil, Ivory Coast, North Korea, Portugal
GROUP H
Chile, Honduras, Spain, Switzerland

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Lakehead shutdown to go ahead despite faculty criticism

Lakehead University will move ahead with its proposed four-day shutdown the week before Christmas, despite strong opposition from the institution's faculty association, who say the plan violates members' collective bargaining agreement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Fraud charges in Quebec

According to the Ottawa Citizen, Quebec Provincial Police have charged 25 individuals with fraud over $5,000 and using false documents in an alleged $2-million to $3-million student loan fraud at Night Hawk College, a private computer training school based in Gatineau.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in **brief**

OTTAWA CUTS FIRST NATIONS DENTAL SCHOOL BUDGET: According to the Regina Leader-Post, the federal government is cutting the $2-million budget of the National School of Dental Therapy, a Prince Albert-based First Nations dental school, arguing it does not fit with its mandate. The school, overseen by the First Nations University of Canada, supplies Aboriginal dental hygienists to dozens of reserves and northern communities across Canada, and there is concern the cuts will have a potentially devastating effect. Government, schools, and First Nations officials are expected to meet this month to discuss the school's future.

$53 MILLION FOR WATERLOO: According to a new report from the University of Waterloo, donations to the institution in 2008-09 totalled $53.3 million.

GLOBE AND MAIL RATES MED SCHOOLS: Last week, the Globe and Mail featured a special section on Canadian medical schools. An increasing number of students are opting pursue to careers as general practitioners, due in large part to measures implemented by medical schools in recent years. Despite a doctor shortage across Canada, seats at medical schools are extremely limited because of caps set by the government. To get into med school today, applicants must show they can handle a full workload and be involved in their communities.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

York students give back

Annual party helps out single parents during the holiday season

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Providing for children can be trying enough when you're a single parent on a budget living in one of Toronto's at-risk neighbourhoods, let alone worrying how to afford gifts for your kids during the holiday season.

But a growing annual event hosted by the York University Student Centre continues to take the pressure off single parents, if just for one night, by providing a free festive evening for kids, with holiday gifts for both them and mom or dad.

The 6th annual Single Parents @ York Holiday Party takes place at York's The Underground Restaurant tomorrow. It's organized by the Single Parents Committee, which consists of the Student Centre, The Underground and other York offshoots including the Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre, Student Community & Leadership Development and the Centre for Women and Trans People.

Alina Ciobotea helped found the event when she was a student at York University. Now an alumnus, she remains active while working as a project coordinator at Verdiroc Development Corporation, one of the event's chief sponsors along with Greenwin Property Management and Forum Equity Partners Inc.

Last year the event brought in more than 100 children and 60 adults, figures Ciobotea expects may double or even triple this year. "At the beginning, a lot of them were York University students," she said, "Now, we've expanded to surrounding at-risk neighbourhoods like Jane and Finch, which is very close to York University."

Ciobotea said the party aims to promote opportunities for children surrounded by crime and violence. "We're trying to create safety for the children, to teach them there are better things out there in the community. If they strive and do well in school, they can do better things for themselves."

The night unfolds at 6 p.m., starting with a holiday dinner, complete with turkey, followed by a holiday film screening, and magic show. Then, Santa Claus himself visits to hand out gifts tailored to each child and gift packs for parents with practical presents including gift cards for food and toiletries.

By hosting the party, Ciobotea said the committee doesn't just want to extend a hand to families in need, but also pass down a bit of the holiday spirit to kids. "Because we're providing them with a good example, we're hoping when they get older, they can help someone else too."

Once a year, the York University Student Centre helps take the pressure off single parents with their Single Parents @ York Holiday Party.

You can help too

- To register to attend the event, call the York University Student Centre at 416-736-2100 X: 20299 or visit yorkstudentcentre.com/singleparents.
- To make a financial or gift donation, call Alina Ciobotea at 416-486-4270 X: 2215 or e-mail her at alina@verdiroc.com.

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York launches redesigned research website

In wrapping up its Research Month, York University has unveiled a new interactive research website. One feature of the redeveloped site is the York U Researcher Support Menu, which provides access to funding opportunities and applications. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology in **brief**

QUEEN'S STUDY REVEALS WHY SOME DO NOT GO ON TO PSE: In a Queen's University study examining young people's transitions from high school to university, college, apprenticeship, and the workplace, students who did not go on to PSE cited concern about financing a college education, uncertainty about career direction, lack of academic success, lack of support from teachers and guidance counsellors, and dissatisfaction with the high school experience as disincentives to pursuing higher education. The study, commissioned by Colleges Ontario, recommends the Ontario government increase student exposure to career and college programs through current initiatives such as co-op education, increase viability of high school college-prep courses, and ensure colleges have the capacity to provide equitable opportunities for access.

DALHOUSIE CORPORATE RESIDENCY MBA FORMS PARTNERSHIP WITH MCGILL SCIENCE FACULTY: Under an agreement recently struck by Dalhousie and McGill Universities, qualified graduates of McGill's science faculty will be guaranteed access to Dal's Corporate Residency MBA program. Launched in September 2008, the program is designed for students with or without experience from every field of study, and private- and public-sector employers from across Canada have partnered with Dal to provide an eight-month, salaried residency for each student. The partnership means the program will reserve up to five seats for McGill's science faculty each year for the next five years. A similar agreement is already in place with the University of Waterloo's Science Business Program.

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UOIT assistant professor fights for abused women

EVA LAM
for Metro Canada

In the early '90s, Molly Dragiewicz was majoring in women's studies at the University of Arizona. The young student often found what she was hearing in the news unsettling.

"There were a lot of stories in the media that were really nasty to victims of campus sexual assault," she recalls. "People were reacting strongly against efforts to do anti-rape education on campus."

Soon after, she joined a research project that involved transcribing women's experiences of assault. "I realized very quickly … that the most horrendous stories of sexual assault were related to ongoing partner violence," she says. At the same time, "there wasn't a lot of work going on about media coverage of violence and abuse in relationships, and how the media coverage of that was good or bad."

Dragiewicz has followed her interest in these kinds of tough issues to the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT), where she is an assistant professor in the faculty of criminology, justice and policy studies. For her body of work so far, she was honoured last month with the New Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology's (ASC) Division on Women and Crime.

"We're very proud of her," says Barbara Perry, associate dean of UOIT's faculty of criminology, justice and policy studies. Perry notes that a number of faculty members have won ASC awards in recent years. "Many of us are doing 'firsts' in particular areas … When we talk about sustainable societies, it's not just about environmental sustainability but also cultural and social sustainability. So the work we do is trying to understand and hopefully challenge structures of inequality that contribute to criminalization."

ISTOCK PHOTO

Molly Dragiewicz (not pictured here) was honoured last month with the New Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology's Division on Women and Crime.

> **"None of these systems work together so survivors of violence and abuse continue to have a really hard time … after an abusive relationship ends."** Molly Dragiewicz

The majority of Dragiewicz's work centres on violence against women, with two areas of focus being the problems that battered mothers face with child custody arrangements and anti-feminist backlash. She takes aim at what she sees as failures in implementation of existing policies and coordination between different systems like the family court system and the criminal justice system.

"None of these systems work together so survivors of violence and abuse continue to have a really hard time getting the resources that they need to get out and be safe after an abusive relationship ends," she says.

Dragiewicz hopes her research will continue to raise awareness on violence and abuse. Her upcoming projects include looking at support for anti-violence services targeted at the LGBT community and racial and ethnic communities.

Dragiewicz says people often wonder if those in her line of work find it hard to deal with such difficult subject matter. With the bad comes the good, she says. "You really hear a lot about women's strengths and perseverance and tenacity… It's inspiring to see how tough these women are and how much they can overcome."

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Residence plan for Georgian College Orillia campus moves ahead
A plan to build a student residence at Georgian College's Orillia campus is one step closer to reality as Orillia city council has authorized a pre-servicing agreement with the project's builder, according to the Orillia Packet & Times. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Looking ahead to 2010 semester

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

If you're feeling overwhelmed by the end of the Fall semester, you don't have to tackle the new one alone.

Whether you haven't done as well academically as you'd wanted or the demands of your school, work and personal life are starting to tear you at the seams emotionally, the coming of the New Year can sometimes be a source of fear rather than excitement.

The first important thing is to remember that no matter how swamped, frustrated or anxious you feel, there is always something you can do to make your situation better. The second is that you don't have to go it alone — help is often just a trip to your campus counselling centre or your professor's office away.

David Mensink is a psychologist who counsels students at Dalhousie University in Halifax and says the top three reasons students come to him for counselling are, in order, anxiety, depression and relational difficulties. Unfortunately there is no quick fix for any of those things so rather than trying to forget about your problems, Mensink says it's crucial to confront them in a rational way.

"Learn from what's happened previously instead of just thinking, 'Tomorrow is a new day.' Understand what happened and let's figure out what you can do now that's going to be different," Mensink said.

Most importantly, you have to commit to a plan of action that will help you move forward.

"People do not get themselves out of trouble by thinking themselves out, they have to engage in action," Mensink said.

When it comes to stress and pressures that comes from many different sources, the key is to prioritize, then divide and conquer.

When in school, don't take on too many responsibilities (work and courses), or everything will suffer.

"The first thing to do is to look at all the things that are creating demand in your life and see if you can reconfigure them. Usually you can change the environment instead of changing yourself," Mensink said.

Dropping that extra course or cutting your overzealous number of work shifts can have a profound effect on your emotional well-being, as well as your grades.

Meghan Houghton, associate vice-provost of Student Services at the University of Calgary, says she sees too many students come through her office who have stretched themselves beyond their own limits in trying to juggle too many courses and too many work shifts.

"I'm actually awestruck by how many hours students try to cram into a work-study schedule. It's important for students to evaluate what they want to accomplish over all — if you're gunning for grad school, the likelihood you're going to be able to maintain anything more than part-time work and keep up your grades is very low," Houghton said.

"I'm actually awestruck by how many hours students try to cram into a work-study schedule."
University of Calgary's Meghan Houghton

Never lose sight of your overall goals, Houghton says, because having clear goals will make it easier pick yourself up and utilize your desire to do well as a motivating factor.

"It's very easy to stay positive if you feel very committed to your goals. Having that panic moment isn't necessarily a bad thing if it propels you to action," Houghton said.

York opens MBA school in Mumbai

ERIC EMIN WOOD
for Metro Canada

INDIA Students applying for an MBA at York University's Schulich school of business now have two campuses to choose from: One in Toronto — and one in Mumbai, India.

"We are very excited," says Dezsö Horváth, Schulich's dean. "This is the first MBA program to be offered in India from a leading international business school."

Students who earn a Schulich MBA in India will receive their first-year classes at Mumbai's SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, then transfer to Canada in their second year and graduate from Schulich's Toronto campus.

More info
- For more information, visit schulich.yorku.ca/SSB-Extra/indiamba.nsf

"I believe that quite a few students will want to go to India because they will be exposed to a fast-growing economy with a lot of opportunity," says Horváth. However, the Indian campus will not be able to provide all of the Canadian school's specialization options.

"We have about 18 to date, which by then will be up to 20. India will only have four or five," Horváth says. "It will be very attractive to come to Toronto in second year."

Horváth hopes to build a permanent facility in India within the next three years. "There will be two Schulich campuses, one in Toronto and one in India," he says, "with the same faculty quality and same student quality, recruiting and placing students all over the world."

Due to its current lack of facilities, the program's first semester — which begins on Jan. 4, 2010 — is limited to 35 students. Though Horváth says it will eventually admit 180.

Canadian students can apply, but "obviously have to compete" with international students, Horváth says. "We don't compromise on quality," he says. "So it's about age 28 to 29, five or six years of experience, a GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) cutoff of 600 — the average is around 670 — and so on."

Students will not be earning an "India MBA," Horváth says, but rather a Schulich MBA by studying in India.

"India has a perfect demographic," he says. "Fifty per cent of the population is below the age of 25, and there are not very many high quality MBA programs. They are catering only to Indian students, to the Indian marketplace." The new Schulich MBA program, he says, is more global.

"It's a very exciting time," Horváth says. "Business is growing very fast in India at the moment, and they're going to need lot of high quality MBA programs."

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He's a champion of his trade

John Bil, the oyster shucker featured below, began attending competitions during his time in Prince Edward Island and won the Canadian Oyster Shucking Championships in 1997, 2001 and 2005. DIANE PETERS/FOR METRO CANADA

This guy is shucking amazing

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

At one point in his career, John Bil shucked a few hundred thousand oysters a year, but lately he's down to about 50,000.

One of Canada's best oyster shuckers didn't think much of the job when he started.

"At first it was a really crappy job. You're stabbing yourself and it's very tedious," says John Bil, now 41.

He was in his early 20s when he got hired at Rodney's Oyster Bar in Toronto. He needed the money: He had plans to become a professional mountain biker.

That didn't happen, but he did improve his shucking skills. Three years later, in 1992, he went to Prince Edward Island for the summer, working at Rodney's new island location.

He did that for three summer and then, in 1995, he moved there permanently. It was partly for love of the island, and partly to learn everything he could about oysters.

He got a job at Carr's Lobster Pound in Stanley Bridge, selling lobster and oysters. Meanwhile, he got himself a portable oyster bar and asked bar owners around the island if he could set up on busy pub nights.

Why would you put oysters on a menu, they asked. People in P.E.I. ate oysters all the time, but at home. "It's like selling a ham sandwich," explains Bil.

But some agreed and Bil eventually had a small but steady business on the side.

Then he took a new job running Atlantic Shellfish's oyster plant. Over the next decade, he really got to learn about the cultivation and harvest of the shellfish.

As part of his job, he travelled to restaurants across the country, training kitchen and wait staff about shucking and serving oysters. That made him miss the restaurant industry, so he went back.

He did some consulting in Montreal and New York City, and helped open an oyster bar in Charlottetown. Now, he's part owner of Ship to Shore in Darnley and The Black Horse, a brand new restaurant in Kensington, both in P.E.I.

Bil used to shuck a few hundred thousand oysters a year; Now he's down to about 50,000.

He starts by opening up the oyster's two shells by inserting a knife at the hinge, wiggling it, and giving it a twist. ("That's the part where you're gritting your teeth if you're new at it.") Once it's open, he runs his knife along the top shell, cutting away the muscle that held the shells together. Then, he looks for sand and ensures the oyster is opaque and fresh looking. If it's too transparent, Bil tosses it away.

And does he eat oysters himself? At least two dozen a week.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Oyster shucker
Salary: Up to $50,000 at a busy city bar
Education/training: Learn on the job
Best Part of the Job: "I love that you're literally taking something off the earth and putting it on a plate, there's no transformation at all."
Worst Part of the Job: "Oysters are heavy when you have to move a bunch around."

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Queen's debate tuition freeze for foreign graduate students
Last week, the Queen's University board of trustees will debate a tuition freeze for international students. The freeze would apply to all foreign masters and doctoral students' tuition fees for 2010-11. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cadavers still play big role for med students

Colour-coded denim cloths cover the row upon row of black body bags atop cold metal tables. Blue means a body that eventually will go into a common grave. Tan, the family wants those remains back for burial, eventually.

These are bodies donated to science, awaiting one of the most sensitive rites in becoming a doctor. Before first-year medical students lay their hands on the living, they learn anatomy from the dead.

Week after week, for six months, teams of students will file into in a laboratory at Georgetown University to slowly take apart "their" body.

First goes the skin on the back, peeled away from the yellow globs of fat that made up what in life someone may have called love handles.

They lay bare the spinal cord and marvel at how its lower roots resemble the tail of a horse.

Carefully probing a lump inside one chest, a team unearths what at first looks like a metal button — a port through which this man once received chemotherapy.

The room quiets as students unwrap the protective covering over each hand. One torso, they quickly learn, looks pretty much like another. But a hand is unique, somehow more intimate, as they hold it with their own blue-gloved hands. Many of the women's nails still bear polish. One year, shockingly, students found a wedding ring.

"You will be working with somebody's grandmother, father or wife," Dr. Carlos Suarez-Quian tells his 200 students before they unzip those body bags for the first time.

They're beginning a balancing act: How to steel their emotions so they can help people, without losing their compassion.

Dissecting cadavers is an evolving tradition. No, sophisticated simulators and the plastic-infused organs of museum exhibits can replace seeing and touching and lifting real bodies. In fact, demand is growing for whole-body donations.

"There's a very big difference between talking about chromosomes and having your knife in fat."
Medical student Sarah Buchman

What's changing is how they're used. Nearly one-third of medical schools have begun integrating nuts-and-bolts anatomy with clinical training spaced throughout their first year. That means Georgetown students dissect the heart, for example, the same week they begin learning how to tell the "lub-DUB" of a healthy heartbeat from the "lub-SHOOP" of a blocked valve.

"There's a very big difference between talking about chromosomes and having your knife in fat," says student Sarah Buchman of Bethesda, Md., as she eases through fat that, yes, looks like the squishy goo encountered on raw chicken.

Day 1 opens with an interdenominational prayer: "Make us grateful for these gifts these donors have given us," says the Rev. Paul McCarren as students wait silently amid the bodies.

Then Suarez-Quian has some class rules. Wear goggles when sawing bone, he warns. All the medical devices people have implanted today can mean flying bits of metal. And absolutely no photos of the bodies on Facebook.

"We've been anticipating this moment a long time," says Christopher Chen of Irvine, Calif., anxious to get started. "It hits you — wow, you're a medical student."

So, who donates their bodies? In some programs, women more than men. They come from every demographic. But there are no national statistics or even federal monitoring of whole-body donations, although one estimate suggests there may be 20,000 a year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First-year medical students dissect a cadaver at an anatomy lab at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington. Dissecting a cadaver is a rite of passage for medical students.

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Backed by the Bacons
Kevin Bacon and his brother are helping out a century-old Philadelphia tradition. The Bacon Brothers performed at a fundraising concert Saturday to raise money for the Mummers Parade, which is a colourful event held every New Year's Day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Photo warning
Queen Elizabeth has warned newspapers not to run unauthorized paparazzi photos of the Royal Family. A lawyer for the Queen wrote to newspaper editors telling them not to publish the intrusive photos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Box office

Blind Side was the No. 1 film at the weekend box office.

Ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to studio estimates:

1. **The Blind Side:** $20.4 million US
2. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $15.7 million
3. **Brothers:** $9.7 million
4. **A Christmas Carol:** $7.5 million
5. **Old Dog:** $6.9 million
6. **Armored:** $6.6 million
7. **2012:** $6.6 million
8. **Ninja Assassin:** $5 million
9. **Planet 51:** $4.3 million
10. **Everybody's Fine:** $4 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The next generation

Secret Life of the American Teenager returns to MuchMusic tonight

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

The Secret Life of the American Teenager sounds like another sleazy bit of reality television focusing on underage sex and bad high school-ish behavior.

Far from it. The series — which begins its second season tonight on MuchMusic — is in fact a family drama about … well … family.

Plus underage sex and pregnancy.

"I think our fans can really identify with the characters," says Shailene Woodley, who plays the pregnant teen Amy on the series, which is best described as a slightly soapier, more fun variation on Degrassi.

"I like Gossip Girl. But it's more about expensive clothes and rich people. It's a fairy tale. I think the best fan mail we get comes from parents who say the show has opened up a lot of avenues to talk to their teenagers."

Forget Gossip Girl. The Secret Life of the American Teenager has crushed that teen TV rival in the ratings south-of-the-border since its 2008 debut. Even before its second season premiere in Canada, the show has already filmed a third season.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Shailene Woodley stars in the family drama The Secret Life of the American Teenager.

The second season of the Secret Life of the American Teenager premieres tonight on MuchMusic.

Still, for Woodley, success has yet to change her life. A veteran of movies and TV at the age of 18, she says she rarely gets recognized as her character Amy.

Not so for Daren Kagasoff, who plays womanizer Ricky, the father of Amy's child on the series. Kagasoff had never acted on TV before this show. And in less than two years, he's a teen heartthrob, albeit a bad boy heartthrob.

"It's the hair," he says, gesturing to his high-flying 'do. "The audience we get is from 10 years old to 23, so if you're at a mall, that ain't a good idea. But I never take it for granted."

"I think the best fan mail we get comes from parents who say the show has opened up a lot of avenues to talk to their teenagers."
Shailene Woodley

As for the new season, there will be a marriage ceremony, the inevitable birth, and plenty of surprises.

"Lots of tears," laughs Woodley. "It's a real growing period for the characters."

For Kagasoff, the second season will see his character make the transition from ladies man to father.

"In the first season, he just kind of hooked up with girls and didn't take responsibility for his actions. But once the baby comes along, he's going to be the best dad he can."

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Twisted Sister's twisted back

Twisted Sister guitarist Eddie Ojeda is recuperating from emergency back surgery that forced him to miss the band's concert near Philadelphia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ins and outs of Oh No They Didn't

Socialite

Rea McNamara

Read her blog at metronews.ca/socialite

At first glance, the online gossip community Oh No They Didn't (ONTD) offers snarky commentary on people's 15 minutes (or longer) of fame, from Jon and Kate's marriage breakdown to Britney Spears' tour lipsyncing.

Yet what differentiates ONTD (Best Gossip Blog winner at the 2008 Weblog Awards) from competitors, such as Perez Hilton's scrawls or Dlisted's sniping sarcasm, is the sheer power of its moderated user-generated content.

It has 90,000 members, more than 150 posts a day and scores of comments from readers (and I'm not even going to get into the numbers of ONTD's popular weekly Free For All Friday postings).

Here's a helpful guide for wading into this online community.

GOSSIP FIRSTS In the five years that ONTD has dominated online gossip culture (Perez Hilton has even been blamed for taking ONTD's items), the community has broken a number of hot Hollywood stories. These include Jamie-Lynn Spears' pregnancy and Fall Out Boy rocker Pete Wentz "Peengate" (the 2006 photo scandal where nude photos of Wentz made it onto ONTD).

SPIN-OFF POPULARITY As the ONTD community has grown beyond the confines of solely gossip content, "official" spin-off communities have been created to support users' diverging interests. These include ontd_discussion (spoiler-laden TV and movie discussion) and ontd_political (check the hilariously modified CNN logo and mocking news ticker as its front page header).

"GUESS WHO I MET?" Click onto the popular fansigns tag and be inundated with "Guess who I met?" postings with celebrities ranging from Taylor Swift to Tobias Fünke (Oops, I mean David Cross) snapped holding up a sign declaring their love for ONTD, which has helped to promote the community to the very celebs they often roast.

ELI ROTH'S SAGA OF DOOM Of course, when ONTD users get up close and personal with a celeb, the fallout is intriguing. Back in September, Inglorious Basterds star Eli Roth tweeted about an ONTD posting discussing the film. But what innocently began with more Eli Roth tagged postings got a lil' dirtier.

The star had a well-humoured reaction to discovering Inglorious Basterds gay fan fiction, suggestively taping a sign declaring his love of ONTD to his hairy chest.

It also led to the ire of a community when it turned out that a few ONTD members were sending private naked pics of themselves to Roth via MySpace.

His reaction? "I know this seems bizarre ... but really for me the night was about tearing down those boundaries between celebrity and fan and the things we're not supposed to say to each other."

ONTD Phrases

- Brituation '08: Britney Spears' January 2008 hospitalization (so popular that Rolling Stone Magazine appropriated it)
- Domestic Disturbia '09: The community's sum-up of the Rihanna and Chris Brown abuse case.

Tevye tunes up on tradition

When actor-playwright Harvey Fierstein was 10 and living in Brooklyn, N.Y., his mother took him to see Fiddler on the Roof on Broadway.

Harvey Fierstein plays Tevye

His mother was an arts lover and always made sure they had money to go to the theatre once a month.

When the curtain dropped on Fiddler on the Roof, it was a "profound" moment, Fierstein recalls, as he prepares to star in the North American tour of the show, which hits the Toronto stage Tuesday.

"We knew there were plenty of Jews in show business, but we also knew that to be in the business you had to hide that you were Jewish," Fierstein, 57, said in a recent phone interview.

"But all of a sudden, there on the stage were Jews ... for this kid from Brooklyn, it was this incredible moment of pride ... it affected me profoundly." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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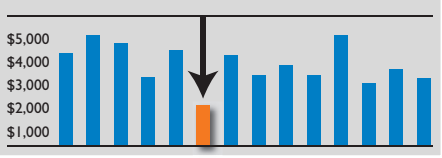

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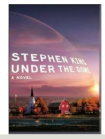

Under The **Dome**

Author: Stephen King
Publisher: Scribner
Price: $39.99 (Hardcover)

Clocking in at 1,074 pages, Under the Dome, the latest release by science fiction and horror master Stephen King, is a behemoth of a book. One autumn day in the small town of Chester's Mill, Maine a segment of the residents are trapped together, under a giant force field that isolates them from the rest of the community. Survival isn't the only intra-dome challenge, as divisions between inhabitants quickly arise. One faction, headed up by an Iraq War veteran, aims to understand the dome and maintain order, but self-righteous politician Big Jim Rennie wants power, and doesn't mind a little blood on his hands to get it.

BookPicks

Knit The **Season**

Author: Kate Jacobs
Publisher: Putnam
Price: $31.00 (Hardcover)

The third book in the Kate Jacobs' Friday Night Knitting Club series returns to the group of girlfriends leading singular lives, but drawn together in friendship by knitting and gossip sessions. Knit the Season picks up one year after Knit Two, centring on Dakota, daughter of the late creator of the club, who's in school studying to be a pastry chef while watching over her mom's yarn store. The book continues to explore the bonds of family and friends as together the group goes through Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, a reflective Christmas in Scotland, and New Years Eve, when a special wedding takes place.

Old **Girlfriends**

Author: David Updike
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $31.99 (Hardcover)

In Old Girlfriends, David Updike (son of late American novelist John Updike) relays 10 short stories driven by male protagonists on love, loss and relationship flaws. While the title story deals with one man's struggle to move beyond an old flame and understand women, few stories actually deal with the title topic. In Kinds of Love, a man is torn between his wife and child, and churchgoing lover. Last of the Caribs follows a middle-aged man's affair with a Dane while working in the Caribbean and his concurrent, authentic desire for a Caribbean woman out of reach because of his race.

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Brokaws uninjured after three-car pile up

Former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw and his wife escaped injury in a car accident in New York City that killed one woman Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Old TV formula for a new age

The variety show was once a television staple, and Carrie Underwood thinks it might be time for a resurgence.

The country music star hosts today's An All-Star Holiday Special on Fox, and believes it's just the tonic for the regular TV lineup.

"I think it's really great they're making a comeback because I think it's really good family programming, and nowadays it seems like every show is about, like, murder or police and people shooting at each other," says Underwood.

The 26-year-old Oklahoma native was too young to catch the golden age of the variety show. It once was as common as the reality show with stars like Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell sisters, Sonny and Cher, and even The Muppets mixing music and comedy to draw in a family audience.

But Underwood did her research before shooting her show in Los Angeles earlier this fall.

"I remember a little bit of the Mandrell sisters and I have gone back and seen episodes of their show just to kind of, I don't know, get some ideas and kind of see how it's done from a master's perspective."

AP PHOTO/CHRIS PIZZELLO

Carrie Underwood hosts Monday's An All-Star Holiday Special on Fox, and believes it's just the tonic for the regular TV lineup.

She also had variety show veteran and country music star Dolly Parton on the set to give advice.

Underwood said she'd never met Parton until they did the show together and the two hit it off right away, especially when they realized they lived close to each other.

"I told her and she was like, 'You don't live far from me, let's get together. Do you like Southern cooking? You don't look like you eat.'"

Brad Paisley, fellow American Idol winner David Cook, Idol host Ryan Seacrest and Neil Patrick Harris also appear in the special, along with Underwood's mother and sister.

The show caps quite the year for Underwood. She won the Academy of Country Music entertainer of the year award in the spring, and her new album, Play On, debuted at No. 1.

She also hosted the Country Music Association Awards for the second straight year.

After a quiet holiday with family, she'll turn her attention to touring in the new year, hitting the road next spring.

"I think my whole life next year will be revolving around touring."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/7/09	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Battlefield Mysteries		Agenda-Paikin
primetime	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	*How the Grinch Stole Christmas* ★★ (2000, Fantasy)				House		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*The Santa Clause* ★★★ (1994, Comedy) Tim Allen.				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		How I Met	Accidentally	Trauma (HDTV)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Special Victims		CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Meet Me in St. Louis* ★★★ (1944, Musical) Judy Garland.				*She's Having a Baby* ★★ (1988, Comedy-Drama)				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Shift Focus
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	*A Christmas Carol* ★★★ (1938, Fantasy)			Mole's C'mas	The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Special Victims		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		Find My Family (N)		Castle "The Fifth Bullet"		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang	Castle "The Fifth Bullet"		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special (N)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	The Moody Blues at the Royal Albert Hall				He Touched Me: Gospel-Elvis Presley		
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		*The End of the Line*		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		American Originals: Budweiser		The NEW Age of Wal-Mart		Marijuana Inc.: Pot Industry		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	NHL Hockey Atlanta Thrashers at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown		NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Green Bay Packers. (HDTV) (Live)					
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	SuperCars	Auto Addiction	Barrett-Jackson		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	The Santa Claus Brothers		*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton.				Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Friends	Friends	*Stolen Miracle* (2001, Drama) Leslie Hope, Hugh Thompson.				*Holiday Wishes* (2006, Drama) Amber Benson.		
	570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Make It or Break It (N)		disBAND	disBAND	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	MuchTop11
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Intervention "Danielle"		Intervention "Greg" (N)		Hoarders "Judi and Gail"		Steven Seagal
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	I Liceali				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		All Access		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		*Alice* (2009, Adventure) Caterina Scorsone, Colm Meaney.				Bones		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Streets of Encounter		Trans-Siberian Orchestra		Rita MacNeil		Christmas at the Concert Hall		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		10 Pounds	Last 10	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic-Perfect	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pearl Harbor: Who Fired First		Patton 360		Battles BC		First Apocalypse		
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Dennis Leary Merry F...'in		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	House Poor (N)	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*The Fighting Temptations* (2003, Comedy)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		The Unit		The Unit		The Unit		Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Snakehead Terror* ★★ (2004, Horror), Carol Alt (DVS)				Listener
	581	566	52	MTV	Jersey Shore Working the summer in Seaside Heights.				Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Food Jammers	Food Jammers	Top Chef: Las Vegas		At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Husband & I	Summer Wine	*Toys* ★★ (1992, Comedy-Drama) Robin Williams, Michael Gambon.				
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Wonder Pets	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Daniela"		Missing		The Closer		Cold Case "Daniela"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*Freezer Burn: Laxdale*		Sanctuary "Kush"		Dexter (HDTV)		Californication	U.S. of Tara	Lock 'n Load
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Last Call* (2001, Action) Phil Morrison.				*Star 80* ★★ (1983, Biography)			(10:45) *The Pyx* (1973)	
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs (N)		Canada's Worst Driver (N)		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Staying Young in Hollywood		1st Class Way

critics'corner

The Santa Clause
Toy company executive Scott Calvin makes a drastic career change in this 1994 comedy. After killing the real Kriss Kringle by mistake, Scott tries on the red suit and is transformed into Santa. In addition to the traditional duties, this Santa must convince his skeptical son that he's the real thing. 8 PM on CBC

Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special
The Grammy-winning and multi-platinum country singer performs holiday songs in addition to selections from her albums. Among the performers joining Underwood onstage during the two-hour special are Dolly Parton, Brad Paisley, Kristin Chenoweth, and David Cook. 8 PM on FOX

Alice
Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" gets a futuristic makeover as martial arts instructor Alice Hamilton finds herself thrust into a grim parallel universe, where she searches for her lost love while trying to evade the fiendish Queen of Hearts. 8 PM on SHO

Mad Men actor mad for décor

The future is unclear for his character on the hit TV show Mad Men, but actor Bryan Batt is taking advantage of the down time here in his hometown of New Orleans since the recent season finale.

Batt — who plays closeted gay art director Sal Romano — is preparing for the holiday shopping season at the home décor and gift shop he runs in New Orleans with his life and business partner, Tom Cianfichi.

"It's something we always wanted to do," said Batt, as he opened a box of glittery red holiday candles that had just arrived at the store. "I've always loved gifts and shopping and design."

They opened their store, Hazelnut, on trendy Magazine Street in 2003. Offering home decorations such as pottery, fabrics and frames, the store sits in a neighbourhood where homes are scattered among antique shops, clothing boutiques, restaurants and bars.

"All the big stores, everything is homogenized. Everything's by committee.

"What I like about this shop is that it's what we like."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crawford blasts cosmetic surgery
Cindy Crawford says cosmetic surgery is unsexy. The 43-year-old supermodel says her husband Rande Gerber and close friend George Clooney can't understand why anyone would go under the knife to alter their appearance. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Winehouse to remarry?

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM Despite rushing through divorce proceedings five months ago, Amy Winehouse and Blake Fielder-Civil are set to remarry, at least according to his mother.

"Their love is so powerful nothing will stop them from being together whatever anyone else thinks. They've battled their demons and are absolutely off drugs," Georgette Fielder-Civil tells the Sunday Mirror. "As soon as Blake finishes his term in rehab he'll be straight back with Amy in London. They'll lock the doors and won't answer the phones. But I know it won't be long before I get a call from Blake saying, 'Mum, I'm at the airport and we're flying off to get married.'"

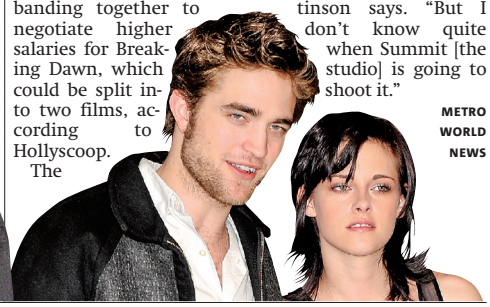
METRO WORLD NEWS

Twilight cast negotiates

VAMPIRE POWER TRIO With just one book left in the Twilight series to adapt into a film (the third book, Eclipse, has already been shot) Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner are reportedly banding together to negotiate higher salaries for Breaking Dawn, which could be split into two films, according to Hollyscoop.

The power trio is said to be demanding eight-figure salaries for the conclusion to the blockbuster franchise, though the schedule for Breaking Dawn hasn't been set. "I have committed to the fourth one," Pattinson says. "But I don't know quite when Summit [the studio] is going to shoot it."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Today, Kirstie Alley has fun with foreign weight measurements, Eddie Izzard is offering weather and shopping updates for Londoners and rapper The Game watches Oprah and isn't ashamed of it.

- @KirstieAlley So I need to loose..OH MY GOD..I could build a WALL with all these STONES!!!
- @eddieizzard Walking through Hyde Park at the moment. Sun is shining but wrap up as it's a little windy. There's an Xmas fun fair in the Park as well.
- @ihategame this ain't Gangsta AT ALL but I was watchin Oprah last night & came to the conclusion that can't nobody sing like Jennifer Hudson !

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brinkley, Joel daughter is hospitalized

OVERDOSE WITH UNDERTONES The daughter of Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley has been hospitalized after overdosing on sleeping pills, according to the New York Post.

Police sources believe Alexa Ray Joel's overdose was a suicide attempt, the newspaper reports. The 23-year-old had reportedly been complaining on her MySpace page recently about a breakup.

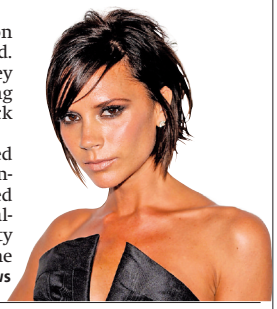
METRO WORLD NEWS

Beckham reeling after theft

BEST-LAID PLANS? Victoria Beckham is said to be reeling after the theft of more than $500,000 worth of clothing from her new collection was stolen off a delivery truck at knifepoint in London, according to the Daily Mail.

The driver was left shaken and bruised after being knocked down by two men who struck during a delivery stop. "This operation was meticulously planned. The thieves must feel they can make a fortune selling the collection on the black market," a source says.

"Victoria was informed straight away about the incident and was shocked and deeply saddened, although her first priority was the well-being of the driver." METRO WORLD NEWS



New power duo emerges

FAMOUS PARENTS A new Hollywood power couple appears to be emerging, as 16-year-old Patrick Schwarzenegger, son of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, has reportedly started dating 15-year-old Tallulah Willis, daughter of Bruce Willis and Demi Moore, according to Page Six. "They started dating around Halloween," a source says, though her dad's rep denies it.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cyrus is spotted with a tattoo

SHOWING OFF? Miley Cyrus is turning heads after being spotted relaxing at a Miami Beach resort in a bikini, clearly showing off a tattoo under her left breast, according to the Daily Mail. The 17-year-old's first piece of body art is a simple script reading, "Just breathe."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Gaga's fear of sex

PHOBIA REFLECTED IN LYRICS Lady Gaga once had a fear of sex, according to popeater.com.

The 23-year-old singer — who is currently single — said the songs on her new album The Fame Monster were written at a time when she was experiencing a phobia of intimacy.

She said: "I'm just really happy being single at the moment, working on my music and travelling. I think there is a time for that but it's just not now for me. And anyway, I have no confidence when it comes to men.

"Each song represents a different monster I have encountered on my travels; a fear of sex, a fear of alcohol, a fear of love, a fear of death, it goes on."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lively lampoons Elin on SNL

COMEDY IMITATES REALITY Rihanna was the guest musician on the latest episode of Saturday Night Live, and while her hilarious appearance in a digital short with Andy Samberg was a highlight of the week, it was another sketch that gave most pause.

Host Blake Lively played Elin Nordegren in a segment lampooning the model's marriage to scandalized golfer Tiger Woods.

The skit focused on allegations that Elin beat her husband with a golf club after learning of his infidelity.

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Today 60% Flurries 2° / -4°
Tuesday Variable -1° / -3°
Wednesday 80% Rain and snow 4° / -6°

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Take Five

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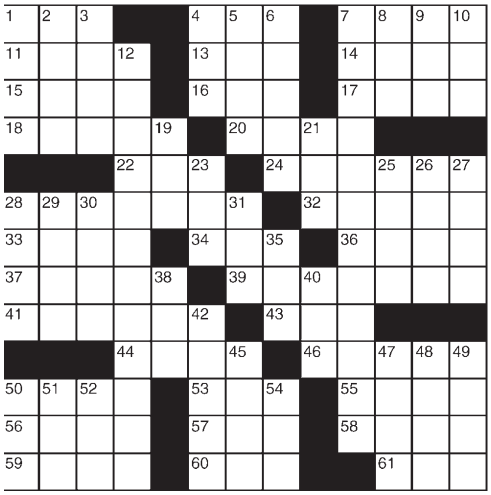

ACROSS

1 Airborne Dracula
4 Group of scenes
7 Antitoxins
11 Styptic agent
13 Comment from Bossy
14 Eastern bigwig
15 Actress Spelling
16 Pea holder
17 Rubik's puzzle
18 Carrot-top's secret?
20 Unaccompanied
22 Work with
24 Addled by age
28 Black leopard
32 Calculating snake?
33 Reed instrument
34 Japanese pond carp
36 Family
37 Richly luxurious
39 Annoys
41Guard
43 Gun lobby grp.
44 Jacob's twin
46 Spouse's relative
50 Old Italian money
53 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
55Mrs. Dithers, in the comics
56 Out of control
57 Leap
58 Badder than bad
59 Makes up one's mind
60 Explosive stick
61 Antlered animalm

DOWN

1Shower alternative
2 Lotion additive
3 Veer
4 Rock band's need
5 Talks like a dove
6 Commotions
7Opportunity to make amends, maybe
8 Ostrich's cousin
9 Cage part
10 Exist
12 Quick-fry beef products
19 Blond shade
21 Meadow
23 "A mouse!"
25 Not working
26 Mad king of literature
27 Sea eagles
28 Boston orchestra
29 Skilled
30 Verb's partner
31 Steal from
35 Charged bit
38 Day fractions (Abbr.)
40 Numerical prefix
42 America's Cup vessel
45 "Once — a time"
47 Cupid's field
48 Seed covering
49 Stroll
50 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"
51 Devil's disciple
52 Deteriorate
54 Suitable

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

1			5					
8		2		1	4			7
	9	4	6					
						6	2	
3		9				4		8
	6	1						
					5	2	8	
5			3	9		1		6
					7			4

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

9	3	8	5	1	4	6	2	7
4	7	5	6	8	2	3	1	9
6	2	1	3	9	7	4	8	5
3	5	6	2	4	9	1	7	8
7	4	9	1	6	8	5	3	2
8	1	2	7	3	5	9	4	6
1	6	7	8	5	3	2	9	4
5	8	4	9	2	1	7	6	3
2	9	3	4	7	6	8	5	1

On the web

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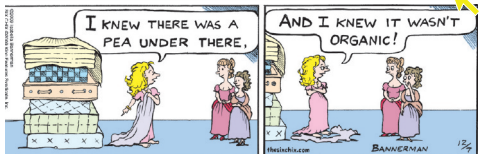

Metro Recipe of the Day

Cowboy Casserole

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/3 lb (600 g) unpeeled baking potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) olive oil
1 tsp (5 mL) tomato paste
14 oz (398 mL) can baked beans
1/4 lb (125 g) frozen peas
1/4 lb (125 g) frozen green beans
7 oz (200 g) can corn, drained
2 tbsp (25 mL) barbecue sauce
3 1/2 oz (100 g) smoked cheese, roughly chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Put potatoes into pot of boiling water. Bring back to boil; half-cover and simmer until just tender, but not breaking up. Drain thoroughly, reserving 4 tbsp (60 mL) cooking water. Tip potatoes into bowl, add oil and toss to coat. Set aside.

2. Blend tomato paste with reserved hot water in pot. Tip in baked beans, peas, green beans, corn and barbecue sauce. Heat gently, stirring, until mixture is barely warm and peas and green beans have thawed. Tip into shallow casserole dish, spreading into even layer. Scatter over cubes of smoked cheese.

3. Arrange potato slices over top, overlapping slightly to completely cover bean and cheese mixture. Bake 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender and top is golden brown.

SERVES 4

Per Serving:
404 calories, 13 g total fat, 7 g saturated fat, 58 g carbohydrate, 17 g protein

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Mercury aspects power planet Pluto in the career area of your chart today, so there is a real chance you will lose your temper.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will either be a hero or a villain today – there is no in between. Being the blunt spoken sort you are sure to say something that causes a fuss.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may believe that all things are possible but others will need some convincing. Usually you would not care in the slightest.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't react badly if someone questions or makes fun of your convictions today. Everyone is entitled to their own point of view .

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Resist the urge to give up on something that, no matter how hard you try, refuses to work the way you want it to work.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone you work with, maybe someone important, is intimidated by your overly aggressive manner, and that could cause problems.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may have made up your mind about something but can you be sure you are right? Today's cosmic influences urge you to think carefully.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone whose personality is almost as strong as your own will refuse to do what you ask of them today.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Why waste time on people who, to be blunt about it, are not worth the effort? Forget them and move on.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You are the boss and what you say goes, and anyone foolish enough to disagree with you will learn very quickly what a painful mistake that can be.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
If a petty argument is getting you down just make your excuses and leave. Why get involved in disputes that mean nothing to you?

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
What you have to deal with today may be the kind of thing you would prefer to avoid but you have no choice in the matter.

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If you are a parent, family member or friend of a child from a separated or divorced family, this holiday season give the gift that will inspire and promote a sense of community within that child.

For more information please contact us at www.willabbi.com or 416.628.4074

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Wine Ph.D.
$4.99 • Go from wine novice to enthusiast in seconds. Just use your iPhone to search the Wine Ph.D. database by name, producer, varietal, region, food pairings or published ratings.

Local Concerts
Free • Want to know who's playing tonight? Local Concerts taps your music library and a large global database to notify you of upcoming shows. Browse events by date or venue, then buy tickets right from your iPhone.

TuneWiki
Free • Listening to music on your iPhone and want to know the lyrics? TuneWiki serves up lyrics to songs from your iTunes library so you can follow along as the song is playing.

Epicurious
Free • Can't decide on dinner? Get Epicurious recipes right on your iPhone. Search by type, what's in your fridge or what's in season. Then make a shopping list with the touch of a button.

Barista
$2.99 • Let your iPhone teach you how to make coffee-shop quality espresso, even when you're at home with step-by-step directions on everything from pulling the perfect shot to pouring latte art.

GoodGuide
Free • Shop green with your iPhone. Now you can easily check the health, environmental and social impact of over 70,000 products, from food to toys, on the go and before you buy.

Mover
Free • Now it's easier than ever for two iPhones to share stuff. With just the swipe of a finger, you can transfer photos, contacts and more to another iPhone over the same WiFi network.

Rocket Taxi
$1.99 • Ever notice cabs are scarce when you need one? Using your iPhone's built-in GPS feature, Rocket Taxi will find a taxi closest to you. Then all you have to do is tap to call for your ride.

AroundMe
Free • When travel takes you to a new place, AroundMe can quickly find nearby businesses from the nearest bank to the closest gas station then route them for you using your iPhone's GPS.

Convertbot
$0.99 • Convert currency, length, mass, time and more. Convertbot's simple, intuitive interface makes conversion easy, even handling mixed units, like feet and inches.

It's amazing how much stuff you can do with an iPhone. With all kinds of apps to help with everything from shopping to gaming to cooking to tweeting. In fact, there are over 90,000 apps for just about anything, only on the iPhone.

Bell | iPhone 3GS

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